C Plate

- **Sports / A29** Spurs eclipse Suns, capture West conference
- **Entertainment / A2-1** Kitchie Nadal, South Border, Bamboo lead 'Awit' big winners

- **Metro / A22** Dina Bonnevie, 'boyfriend' face estafa charges
- **News/ A2** Solons want plunder ceiling lowered
- **World / A9** Dutch join French in dumping EU Charter

'Jueteng-free' certification fails to stop cop's relief

By Luige A. del Puerto and Juliet Labog-Javellana

EVEN if the archbishop got it wrong, who was he to question a priest?

With that sentiment, Chief Insp. Cerilo Trilles, the sacked police chief of Bato, Camarines Sur, yesterday sought out the media

JUETENG-FREE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

House urged to adopt 'no work, no pay' policy

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHY should taxpayers pay for absentee congressmen?

Flustered by the continuous lack of quorum in Congress, two lawmakers

HOUSE/ A6

DAPAT NO WORK, NO MORE JOB!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, June 3, 2005 ★★ 80 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 175 P18
website: www.inq7.net

GMA rating lowest ever

SWS says 3 out of 5 dissatisfied with her

AMID RISING prices, higher taxes and a "jueteng" controversy involving her family, the performance rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo tumbled to -33 in May, the lowest ever for a Philippine leader since 1986. *(See Table on Page A4)*

In a media statement released late last night, the Social Weather Stations said its survey from May 14 to 23 found that 59 percent of Filipinos were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance while only 26 percent were satisfied.

In an SWS survey conducted from Feb. 25 to March 10, Ms Arroyo had a performance rating of -12. A total of 48 percent of respondents then were dissatisfied with her performance while 36 percent were satisfied.

Not even President Joseph Estrada, who was ousted amid charges of widespread corruption in his administration, experienced such a low performance rating during his three-year stay in office.

Ms Arroyo earlier said she ex-

GMA RATING/ A4

ALBAY residents Nangte Bodino (left) and Rizalino Serilla (right) present themselves to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and journalists to deny that whistle-blower Wilfredo Mayor was a "jueteng" operator.

REM ZAMORA

'Witnesses' out to discredit whistle-blowers

By Tina G. Santos
Metro

DESPITE President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that she will let the chips fall where they may, the government machinery appears to be moving to torpedo investigations into the "jueteng" controversy by presenting witnesses discrediting testimony against officials allegedly involved and pursuing charges against a town mayor who confessed to receiving protection money.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday his department's Task Force Jueteng has an "airtight case" against Mayor Tirso Lacanilao of Apalit, Pampanga, who has admitted in a radio interview that he had received jueteng payola.

"In my view, the payola receiver is more guilty because there is graft and corruption," Gonzalez said.

Lacanilao said he made the disclosure because municipal funds were insufficient to meet the needs of his constituents.

Also yesterday, Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation presented two of four witnesses who had stepped forward to discredit statements by confessed jueteng operator Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor during Monday's Senate investigation into the illegal numbers racket.

Rizalino Serilla, 60, and Nangte Bodino, 44, both from Albay, said Mayor, just like them, simply worked as jueteng fixer, who coordinated with jueteng administrators, and not an operator as Mayor identified himself.

As such, they said Mayor could not have known who was getting jueteng payola.

Serilla, who said he personally knew Mayor since 1992, said Mayor had lost heavily in casino gambling that had caused his bankruptcy and forced him to mortgage his house and lot which were subsequently foreclosed.

'WITNESSES'/ A4

Solons tell Lomibao: Stop 'jueteng'; it's your job

By Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday got it from all sides for saying that the PNP lacked resources and personnel to sustain his "jueteng-free" assessment of the country.

Stop making excuses and do your job, lawmakers in effect told Lomibao, who made the damning admission on Wednesday at the House inquiry into jueteng initiated by that chamber's committee on public order and security.

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles, the House assistant majority leader, and Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said Lomibao's excuses went against the Arroyo administration's directive for an all-out campaign against illegal gambling.

They said Lomibao was in effect casting doubt on his own declaration that the country was "jueteng-free" as of 5 p.m. of May 27, and reminded him that it was not only the PNP's credibility that was at stake but the Arroyo administration's as well.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz pointedly asked: If Lomibao's predecessor could do it, why couldn't he?

Cruz said that as PNP chief, Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., now the public works secretary, was able to stamp out jueteng shortly before the May 2004 elections.

"If Lomibao can't stop jueteng, we're in trouble," the archbishop told the INQUIRER. "It's only a form of illegal gambling. There are still illegal drugs, criminality and terrorism."

Cruz also said Lomibao's admission that the 117,000-strong police force was virtually helpless against the underground lottery was a reflection of the PNP's "incompetence and incapability for whatever reason to secure peace and order."

In December 2003, then PNP

SOLONS/ A6

Gloria wants Con-con next year

By Christine O. Avendaño

AFTER twisting the arms of legislators to secure the passage of vital revenue measures, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was ready to tackle an even tougher job—amending the 1987 Constitution.

In a television interview, Ms Arroyo said she planned to ask Congress to call a constitutional convention that would mainly tackle a shift in the country's type and form of government to help raise its economic growth rate.

She said a federal type and par-

GLORIA/ A4

Scandal part of coup plot, says Palace exec

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

THE LATEST "jueteng" scandal has sparked grim scenarios on either side of the divide—the government raising the specter of a coup plot allegedly orchestrated by deposed President Joseph Estrada and the bishop who started the controversy bracing for an assault on his character.

A high Malacañang official yesterday told the INQUIRER that the Senate investigation of the illegal numbers racket is part of a three-stage destabilization plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo being directed and financed by Estrada.

"They are trying to whip up a confluence of events that would culminate in a people power," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He said the climax would occur either on the eve or the day the President delivers her annual State of the Nation Address at the opening of the joint session of Congress scheduled for July 25.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz told the INQUIRER that his opponents had reportedly set up a "dirty tricks department" to orchestrate a grand campaign to discredit him.

The campaign involved rounding up people to appear before the media with fabricated claims that he had broken his vows of celibacy by having a family of his own, Cruz said.

The other charges are that he is gay and a pedophile, he said.

"There will be certain characters scheduled to come out with vacuous accusations about the long list of the 'boys' and 'girls,' as well as

SCANDAL/ A6

DXBB 1107
SUPER RADYO

ARMING MEDIA

REUTERS

With an assault rifle on his desk, a broadcaster hosts a regular program inside a radio booth in General Santos City. At least 68 Filipino journalists have been killed since democracy was restored in 1986. *(Story on Page A7.)*

Plywood bed, ₱30 daily meal for Garcia, Detainee No. 66

By Luige A. del Puerto

DETAINEE No. 66 will sleep on a plywood bed, eat meals worth P30 a day, and make do with an electric ceiling fan in a cell measuring two meters by three meters.

Or at least that was Chief Supt. Geary Barias' description of how retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the ex-comptroller of the Armed Forces accused of plunder, would spend his days at the Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

"Our treatment of General Garcia will be [like the way we treat] any other detainee here," Barias, Camp Crame commander, said yesterday.

Besides, he said, other "high-profile detainees" like Dennis Roldan, a former representative of Quezon City, and Martin Soriano, a former agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, would balk if Garcia were given special treatment.

"I'm sure [the other detainees] would tell if we treated [Garcia] differently," he said, adding that should it happen, the media would surely get wind of it.

The Sandiganbayan has found sufficient evidence to hold Garcia liable for amassing wealth amounting to P303.2 million. He was taken from military custody on Tuesday and brought the next day to Camp Crame, where he will stay for the duration of his trial for plunder.

At about 8 a.m. yesterday, Garcia, 56, complained of difficulty in breathing and was taken to the Philippine National Police Hospital.

"He was checked, and was back [in his cell] by 9 a.m.," said Chief Insp. Dexter Rellora, acting chief of the detention center.

Garcia told Barias the other night that one of his "concerns" was his health.

"That was also the [issue] raised by his lawyers," Barias said.

In October last year, Garcia was confined briefly at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital in Manila. His physicians said he had "obstructive sleep apnea," a condition marked by temporary cessation of breathing.

Garcia's new home pales beside the comfort of his quarters at the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) compound in Camp Aguinaldo, where he had been

PLYWOOD/ A8

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Western Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/03/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Solons want plunder ceiling lowered

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

LAWMAKERS yesterday offered an immediately doable action that could provide a potent weapon in the fight to wipe out corruption: Lower the amount that defines plunder from P50 million to P25 million.

Members of the House, reacting to a Social Weather Stations survey that showed 99 percent of business executives polled believed corruption was widespread in government, asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately certify as a priority measure House Bill No. 1764 authored by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay which sought to amend the plunder law.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan (Lakas-CMD), vice chair of the House committee on justice, said that amending the plunder law would boost the antigraft campaign because it would deter those with "an inclination to succumb to the corrupting influence of power."

"The present plunder law has not deterred public officials from committing corruption because the amount involved, which is P50 million, is rather high," he said.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the SWS survey showing traders' dour outlook on government would serve as a "wake-up call" for government agencies.

Ermita, interviewed over RMN radio, said it was unfortunate that business executives harbored that kind of perception but that the government was serious about its anticorruption drive because people were demanding positive effort and results.

The executive secretary said people might not be aware of the government's anticorruption drive and thought that nothing was being done.

He said the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, upon orders of President Arroyo, had launched a renewed campaign against corruption.

Asked about the survey findings that businessmen came face-to face with corruption when they tried to get permits, licenses and paid taxes, Ermita said that corruption would not happen if no bribes were offered.

"Government employees are encouraged to accept bribes because someone was offering them," he said.

On the survey finding that businessmen were interested in donating funds to support groups fighting corruption, Ermita said businessmen should form an organization that would help the government's anticorruption drive.

"Maybe they should have a private body that will help in detecting who and where corruption is being done and what can be done to stop this practice," he added.

He also said he agreed with the proposal of businessmen that they send volunteers to join government monitoring projects or bids and awards committees of government agencies.

Libanan and Rep. Isidoro Real, vice chair of the committee on good government, said amending the plunder law and the "successful conclusion" of former President Joseph Estrada's trial for plunder and corruption would send the biggest signals to corrupt officials in government that the Arroyo administration was serious in clamping down on graft and corruption.

Estrada is facing a high-profile corruption trial for allegedly receiving over P4 billion in "jueteng" payoffs and other kickbacks, way above the P50-million level. Estrada voted for passage of the plunder law when he was still senator.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo was quick to remind congressmen that the proposal was simplistic because it was not the amount that grafters got that was important.

"It's the political will and determination to arrest and prosecute (grafters) that's vital (to any anticorruption drive)," said Ocampo.

Pichay said corruption had never left the bureaucracy and had actually worsened.

He said the threshold amount of P50 million as provided for by Republic Act 7659 did not deter public officials from committing various forms of corruption.

GLORY
President Macapagal-Arroyo laughs with reporter Jaja "Kikiam Defensor" Bolebar of Studio 23 at the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City during Ms Arroyo's visit there June 2. RENY PAMPOLINA/PCPO

DepEd revises rules on class suspension

THE DEPARTMENT of Education yesterday announced new guidelines in the cancellation of classes during typhoons.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad said that starting this school year, classes in the elementary level will not be suspended when storm signal No. 1 is declared by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Only classes in the pre-school level will be suspended.

"We have observed that since there are no big calamities during storm signal No. 1, classes in elementary levels should not be disrupted. Sometimes, there (are) just gusty winds at this storm level," Abad said.

Abad said there would be no classes in the pre-school, elementary and high school level when storm signal No. 2 is declared.

Storm signal Nos. 3 and 4 automatically suspends classes in all levels, including in college.

But in cases when there no storm signal alerts but there are heavy rains and flooding in a particular area, the DepEd said school division superintendents and mayors will decide whether or not to suspend classes. *Alcuin Papa*

Ties with China worries US think tank

By Volt Contreras

A WASHINGTON-based think tank which last year described President Macapagal-Arroyo as Southeast Asia's "weakest leader" now sees RP-US relations being "under significant strain" because of Manila's warming ties with China.

The Heritage Foundation conveyed this view in a forum it sponsored last month with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo as guest speaker.

The Heritage website posted the following in its recap of the forum held last May 18 in Washington, DC.

"The September 11, 2001 attacks sparked a renewed interest in the US-Philippines alliance. As both nations faced al-Qaida and associated terrorist groups, the United States and the Philippines cooperated to improve the Philippines' military, law enforcement, and financial operations capabilities. However, the alliance has come under significant strain of late because of Manila's new—and unprecedented relationship—with China as well as its decision to withdraw troops from Iraq early.

"In policy circles here (in Washington), the question is being raised: Can the US depend on the alliance any longer?" it asked.

The AHF gave a scathing assessment of Ms Arroyo in October last year when she ordered the pullout of Filipino troops from Iraq to save Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz held hostage by Iraqi militants.

The Foundation described Ms Arroyo as "the (Southeast Asian region's) weakest leader" for purportedly capitulating to terrorist demands.

The group's latest view on China came amid growing bilateral relations between Manila and Beijing.

The two countries are marking the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic ties this year, both saying they have entered a "new Golden Age" of partnership.

In April, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the Philippines and endorsed investments and loans worth $1.6 billion to fund infrastructure and mining projects in the country.

A month later, Gen. Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of staff of China's People's Liberation Army, arrived in Manila for a dialogue between top defense officials of both countries.

NEWSBRIEFS

DOLE warns firms on minimum wage

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday asked companies to comply with the new minimum wage orders to avoid severe penalties. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said labor inspectors will conduct random checks on several firms to ensure that the minimum wages were being enforced. "Compliance with the minimum wage law and other labor standards prevents workers' dissatisfaction, thereby sustaining work site harmony and productivity," Sto. Tomas said. Twelve of the country's 17 regions have come up with new wage orders increasing workers' basic pay or cost of living allowances. Most would take effect in the middle of June. *Jerome Aning*

Filipino women score big in Kuwait

FILIPINO women working in Kuwait recently scored legal victories against violence and exploitation in the oil-rich state. Two Bangladeshi nationals received life sentences for abducting four female overseas Filipino workers for a sex syndicate last year, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday. The DFA is now arranging the four workers' return to the Philippines after a Kuwaiti court found their abductors, Soroar Bihian Karom Ali and Abulkalam Anwar Hali, guilty of white slavery. Police arrested the two gang members and rescued the Filipinas along with two Indonesian women in November 2004. The Philippine embassy hired a Kuwaiti lawyer for the Filipino women. *Volt Contreras*

Meralco told: Deal with SC ruling first

BEFORE seeking a rate hike of 14.76 centavos per kilowatt-hour, the Manila Electric Co. should first deal with refunds arising from a Supreme Court decision that rejected rates unbundling and a 17-centavo rate increase order from 2003. Renato Reyes Jr., Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general, said the distribution utility still has a "legal setback" to hurdle before it could ask for yet another rate increase. "Meralco still has to comply with the decision of the (Court of Appeals) regarding its unbundling and rate increase last 2003. This also involves a huge amount collected over the past three years," he said in a statement. *Abigail L. Ho*

Veterans set rally at Senate

THE PHILIPPINE Veterans Legion, an organization of 20,000 World War II veterans and depositors of the Philippine Veterans Bank, is planning to hold a rally to protest the cancellation of a Senate hearing that would clarify the ownership of the bank, Frank Cedula, the legion's national commander, said yesterday. Cedula told a press conference they were shocked by the move of the Senate under Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the committee on banks, to put off the meeting. *Elizabeth Sanchez*

Navy chief risking tenure

THE CONTEST for the top post in the Armed Forces may cost the chief of the Philippine Navy six months of his tenure. Navy chief Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, one of the top candidates as AFP chief of staff, will have to retire six months ahead of his mandatory retirement if he does not get the post, according to the rules on military tenure. De Leon is set to retire Sept. 21 next year when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56. Republic Act 8186 sets the maximum tenure for a three-star general like De Leon at three years. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Bill on hepa immunization pushed

CONVINCED that the sure way to stop the spread of the disease is at childbirth, Sen. Pia Cayetano yesterday pushed for the passage of a bill mandating the immunization of newborn babies against Hepatitis-B. Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on health, filed a bill requiring that infants be brought to a hospital, clinic or health care facility for immunization within 24 hours, but not later than seven days, after they are born. Hepatitis-B is the cause of 70 percent of liver cancer cases, and currently afflicts eight million Filipinos, and "will continue to infect more Filipinos" unless the government adopted "more aggressive measures," according to Cayetano. *TJ Burgonio*

Coast Guard back at SuperFerry

SEA MARSHALS of the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday resumed the protection of SuperFerry ships after their operations were stopped for 10 days following the killing of the company's security officer by a Navy sea marshal last month. The Coast Guard and SuperFerry management met to mend ties after the shooting of Joel Facura, chief security of the SuperFerry 16, at the Sasa Wharf in Davao on May 20. The suspect is a certain Julius Villanueva, a member of the Philippine Navy who is assigned to the sea marshals. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Int'l group offers airport services

A LEADING international organization representing the airline industry recently asked the country's airport authority if the country's airports were capable of handling passenger and flight growths in the next 10 years as it offered its programs and consultative services to the government. The International Air Transport Association, which has 265 member-airlines worldwide, is seeking to make the Manila International Airport Authority part of its active clientele, a statement from the airport authority said. *Nikko Dizon*

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Kayang-kaya magpalamig,...
Kayang-kaya ng bulsa...
Kayang-kaya.

Wife of whistle-blower on AFP sidewalk threatened

By Fe B. Zamora

THE THREAT was loud and clear: Tell your husband to shut up or your children pay.

"Traydor ang asawa mo. Ambisyoso. Magtago na kayo. Isa pang salita sa dyaryo kapalit isang anak. (Your husband is a traitor. Ambitious. You better hide. Another word from you on the newspaper and one of your children will get it.)"

This was the threatening message sent to Nina, wife of AFP Vice Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Ariston de los Reyes, an INQUIRER source close to the De los Reyes family said yesterday.

"Nina received the message twice. It's scary, and we can only theorize it has something to do with the sidewalk scandal," the source also said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact De los Reyes, but his cell phone was "unattended."

Dubbed as its "resident saint" by fellow officers, De los Reyes occupies the second highest position in the AFP and is one of the contenders to replace AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, who is slated to retire on June 24.

De los Reyes also heads the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability (OESPA), which accepts complaints about the moral and ethical conduct of military personnel.

In its May 8 issue, the INQUIRER said De los Reyes opposed the plan of Abu to replace the 2.5-km sidewalk in Camp Aguinaldo with decorative tiles.

In his marginal note on a memo dated April 16, De los Reyes wrote: "Demolishing the present sidewalk and replacing them with paving blocks for aesthetic purposes may not be in keeping with the times."

De los Reyes also recommended that instead of repairing the sidewalk and the roofs which would cost a total of P19 million, the AFP should give priority to the repair of the military quarters inside the same camp.

AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who is the third ranking AFP official, defended the project and Abu's decision to reject De los Reyes' recommendation.

"To determine a priority project is the prerogative of the command," Adan said.

AFP information officer Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual also said Abu had only approved the release of P5.5 million, and not the P19.5 million proposed by the AFP chief of engineers.

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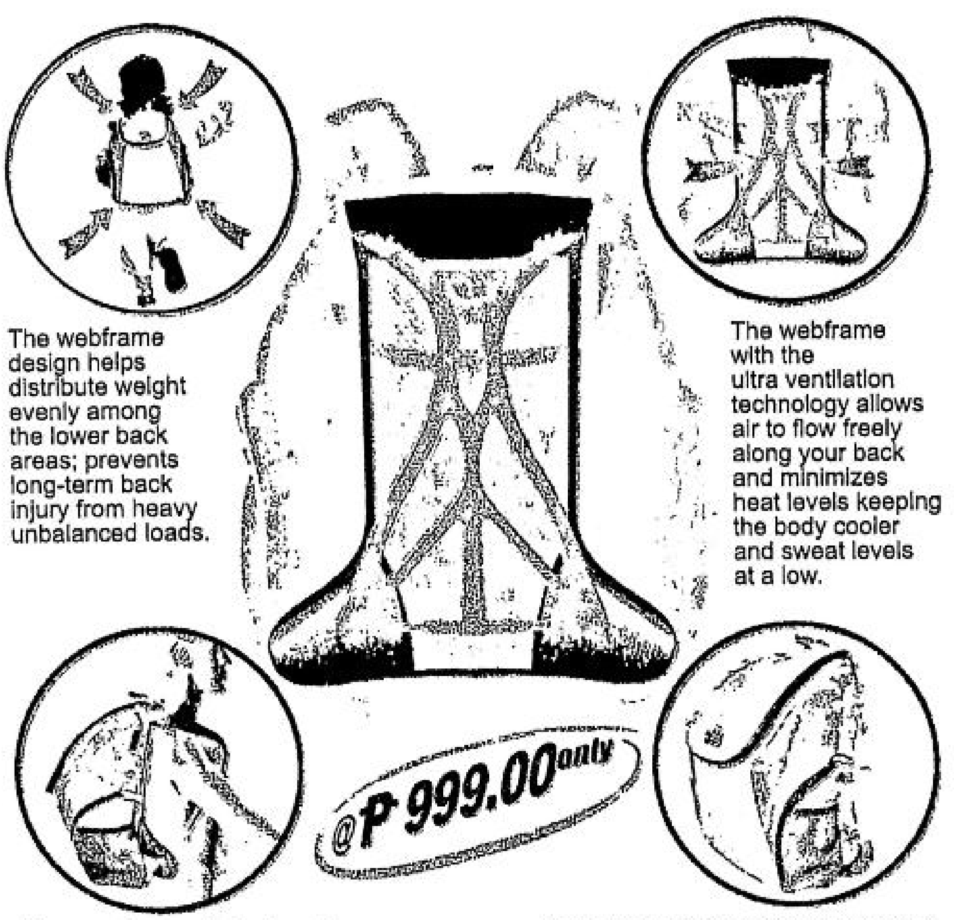

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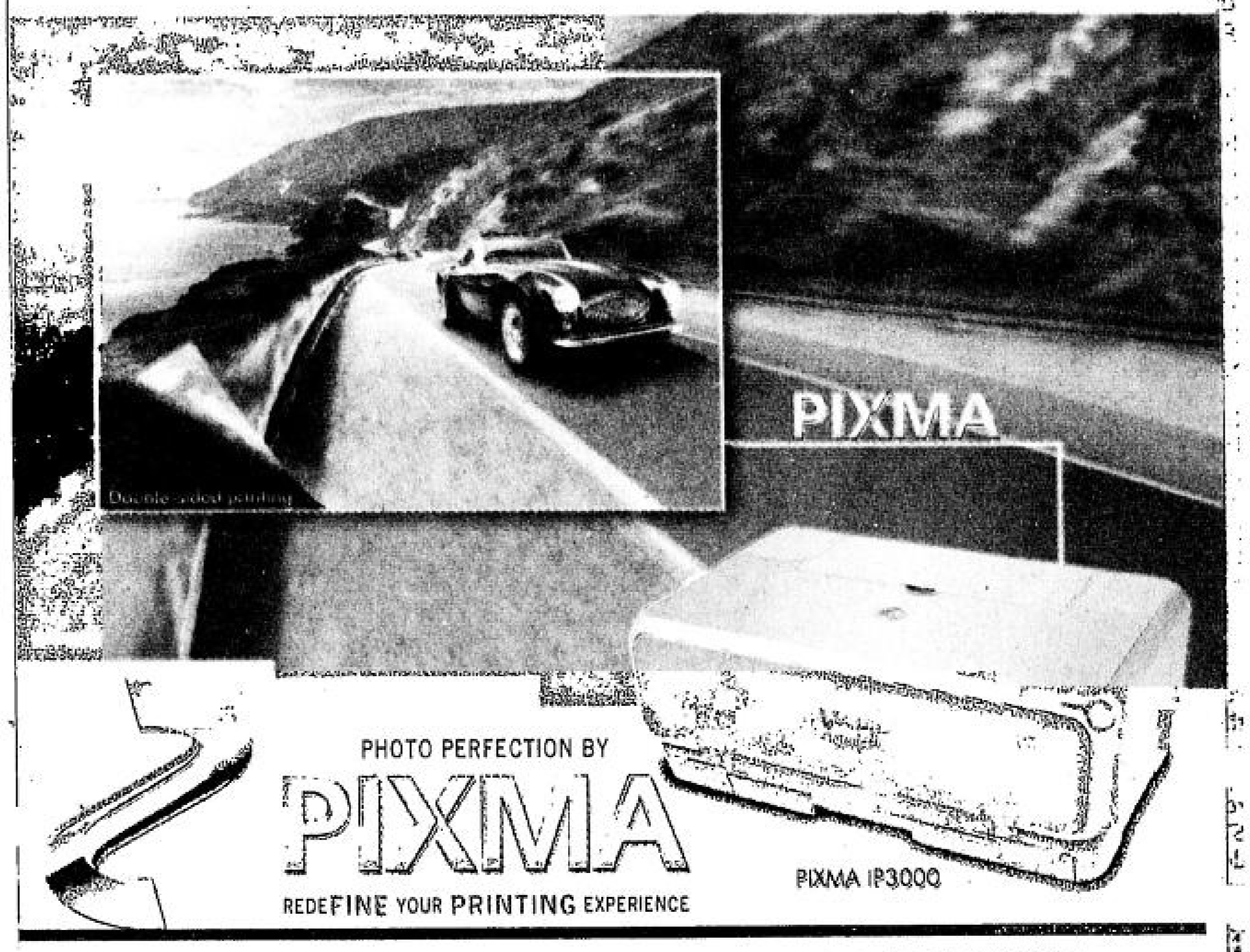

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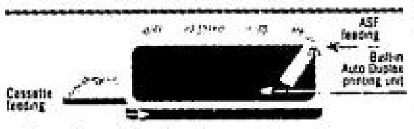

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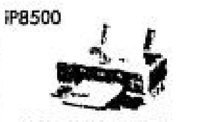

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'Witnesses' out to discredit whistle-blowers

From page A1

He added that Mayor had a string of estafa charges and was a drug user.

"A senator gave Boy Mayor P5 million to make up stories, but there was no truth to his testimonies," Serilla said. He declined to identify the senator.

The presentation of the witnesses came a day after Sen. Panfilo Lacson disclosed that the NBI had picked up people who would be used to destroy Mayor and others implicating the First Family. Mayor, in his testimony Monday, implicated the President's son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, in alleged jueteng payoffs.

"We decided to present them to the media to avoid further speculations that we're hiding something," Wycoco said. "This is just relative to the memorandum order earlier issued by the Department of Justice asking the NBI to trace the whereabouts of people allegedly involved in the illegal numbers game."

On May 30, President Arroyo said she supported the jueteng investigations and would "let chips fall where they may" to clear the air so the nation could move forward.

Three associates of Mikey Arroyo—Rene Maglanque, Leon Katigbak and Arturo Lopez Naguit—have filed criminal cases of perjury and libel against Mayor. Mayor claimed the three were the younger Arroyo's "bagmen."

Gonzalez said that while his department would not initiate the filing of cases against anti-jueteng witnesses, he could not stop anyone from taking the initiative in going to courts.

He denied helping the three in filing their cases against Mayor.

"I have no control over anybody filing a case," Gonzalez said.

But the secretary said the libel complaints filed by Mikey Arroyo's allies could serve as a "test case."

"[These cases will] test the validity of the so-called immunity given by the Senate as against Republic Act No. 9287 [the amended anti-illegal gambling law] and Presidential Decree No. 1732 [immunity law for government witnesses]."

Lawyer Orlando Pangilinan, counsel for Naguit, said witnesses seeking sanctuary in the Senate should not be allowed to abuse the immunity clause.

Gonzalez said the "blanket immunity" given by the Senate to Mayor, a former barangay chair in Albay, was a privilege not even enjoyed by lawmakers.

Lawmakers only enjoy immunity in speech and proceedings when Congress is in session, he said. They are also spared from arrest if the offense for which they were charged carries a penalty of not more than six years in prison, he said.

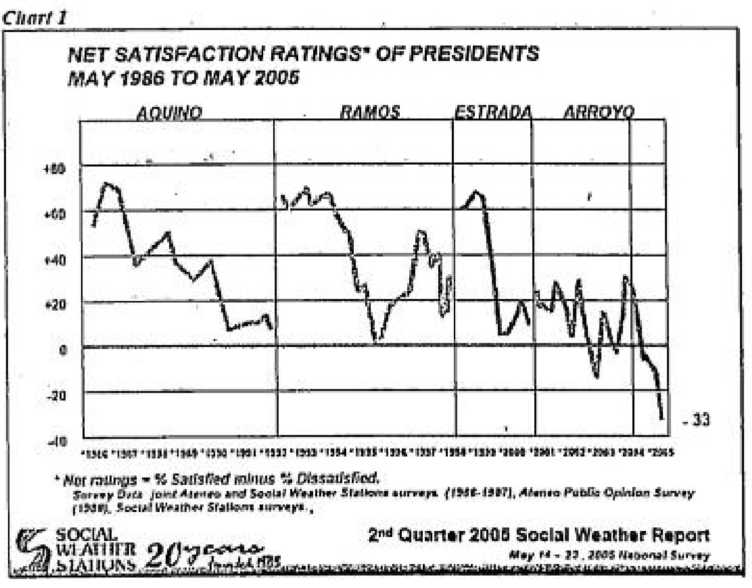
Gonzalez said "only a court can grant immunity by means of declaring him a state witness and discharging him from the information [or complaint]."

"You cannot make somebody a state witness in advance. That's the specific rule in the rules of court," he said.

In the House, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Mayor did not qualify to be a witness in a separate jueteng inquiry being conducted by the House committee on public order and security.

He said the "questionable nature" of Mayor's character should "give Congress pause before accepting Mayor's testimony as reliable." *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Chart 1



* Net ratings = % Satisfied minus % Dissatisfied.
Survey Data: Joint Ateneo and Social Weather Stations surveys (1986-1987), Ateneo Public Opinion Survey (1988), Social Weather Stations surveys.

2nd Quarter 2005 Social Weather Report
May 14 - 23, 2005 National Survey

GMA rating lowest ever

From page A1

pected her popularity to plummet with the imposition of new taxes to stave off a looming fiscal crisis. A doubling of world crude prices also caused local prices of fuel and other goods to soar, substantially diminishing the purchasing power of Filipinos.

At a time when Ms Arroyo has been calling for belt-tightening measures in government and sacrifices among the people, her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and their son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, have been accused of accepting payoffs from illegal gambling lords. The Arroyo family has denied the charge.

The net satisfaction rating of Ms Arroyo in Visayas, where she customarily draws her strongest support, turned negative to -15, falling by 34 percentage points from +19 in March.

Her performance rating also fell by 30 percentage points in Luzon to -47 from -17 in March.

In Metro Manila, Ms Arroyo's rating fell by 9 percentage points to -47 from -38 in March. It was more or less steady in Mindanao, -12 now from -14.

The President's net rating plunged in rural areas by 22 points to -27 from -5 in March, and by 13 points in urban areas to -36 from -23.

Her net satisfaction rating among both the "masa" (Class D) and the middle to upper classes (ABC) declined to -34 in May from -13 in March. Her ratings also fell among the "very poor" (Class E) to -29 from -8.

The latest SWS survey showed net satisfaction ratings holding steady for top government officials.

- Vice President Noli de Castro, +22 in May from +19 in March.
- Senate President Franklin Drilon, +8 from +2 in March.
- Speaker Jose de Venecia, -2 from -8.
- Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., +1 from -5.

The SWS surveys in March and May used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults each. Both surveys have sampling error margins of approximately plus and minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level for national-level percentages.

The survey questions were not commissioned, but were included on SWS's own initiative. The SWS surveys are supported by subscribers who have no proprietary rights over the data.

Gloria wants . . .

From page A1

liamentary form of government would be more effective in enacting reforms than the current unitary, US-style presidential system with a bicameral legislature.

"Next year, when Congress opens, I plan to propose the holding of a constitutional convention that will propose to change the form of government to a parliamentary system and the transition to a federal form of government," Ms Arroyo said on ANC television.

The proposed change was part of her administration's medium-term economic development plan, she said.

Government economists have also said that the Constitution is not attuned to a market-based economy allowing and gives too much power to the judiciary which can effectively scuttle the executive's economic policies.

Ms Arroyo, who won a full six-year term in last year's elections after succeeding deposed leader Joseph Estrada following a military-backed popular revolt in 2001, had earlier backed down on calls to amend the Constitution after the opposition charged it could be used to prolong her presidency.

Palace sources said Ms Arroyo wanted the constitutional convention held next year as the government would be busy holding peace negotiations with Moro separatists and communist rebels this year.

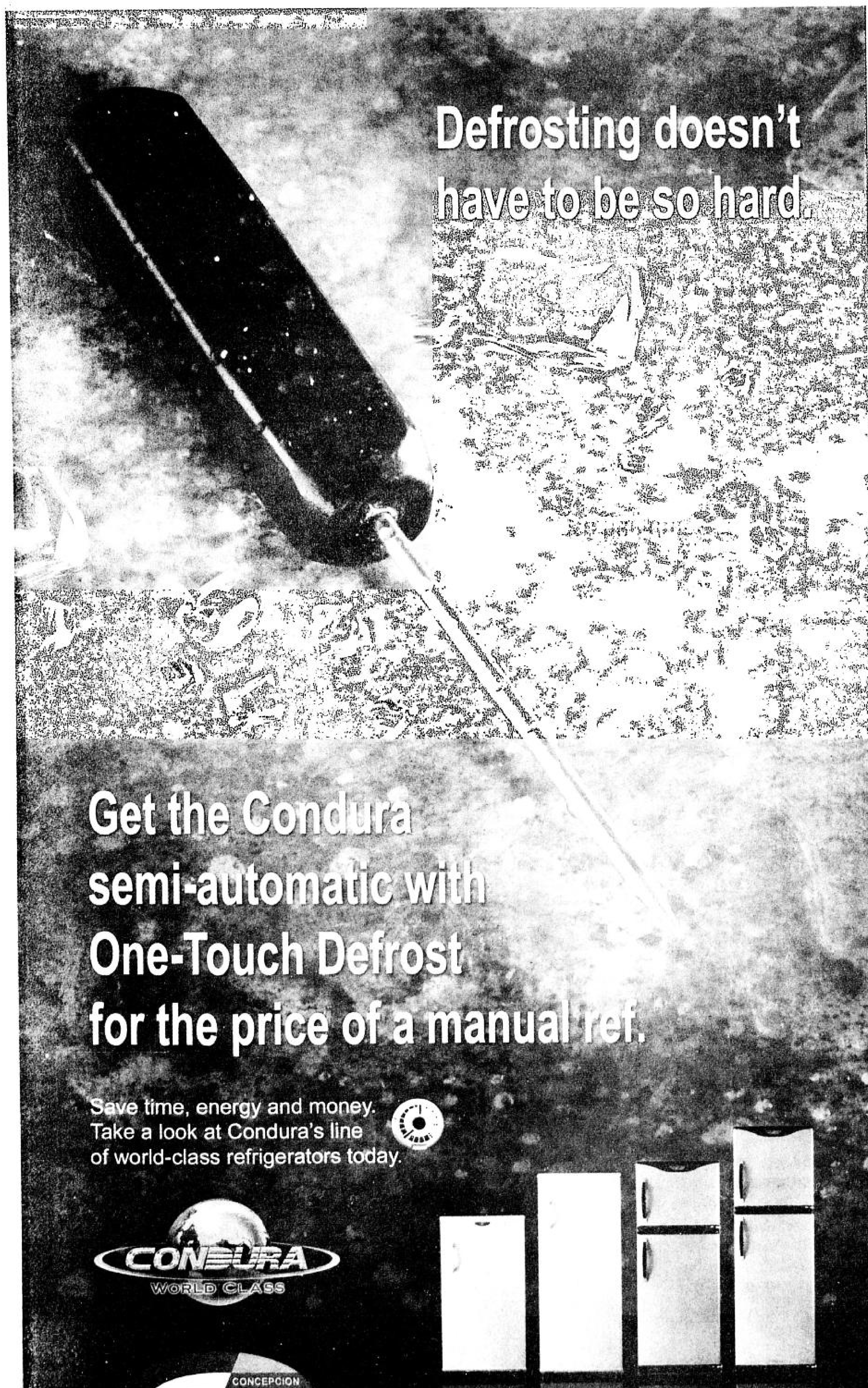
Election in ARRM

According to the same sources, the President also wanted the election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao be held first before the election of delegates to the constitutional convention.

In her interview with ANC, Ms Arroyo admitted she had to twist the arms of legislators to ensure the passage of the expanded value-added tax bill.

"You know I drove them so hard for this revenue measure," she said, referring to senators and congressmen. "I pushed them, kicking and screaming and so much arm twisting and I feel that they helped me."

In an unusual move, Ms Arroyo went to ABS-CBN yesterday and gave interviews to its radio and television networks on everything but the "jueteng" controversy.



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Navy rescues 17 off shoals near Malaysia

SEVENTEEN people, including children, have been rescued by the Philippine Navy after being stranded for more than two days without food and water in the country's treacherous border with Malaysia, officials said yesterday.

A Philippine Navy patrol ship, BRP Quezon, was patrolling the area, notorious for rebels and pirates, when it spotted the stranded motorized fishing boat about 51 nautical km southeast off the Fearless Shoals on Sunday afternoon, according to Navy spokesperson Geronimo Malabanan.

The passengers—seven men, seven women and three children—were all dehydrated.

One of the passengers had told rescuers that they left Malaysia's Sandakan town on Borneo island for Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi in Mindanao. But along the way their engine broke down, causing the vessel to drift. *Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, AP*

TROUBLED PRE-NEED FIRMS

Angara accused of blocking inquiry

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

DISENFRANCHISED plan holders of the Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) and College Assurance Plan (CAP) yesterday accused Sen. Edgardo Angara of supporting and abetting corporate fraud by blocking the Senate investigation of the troubled pre-need industry.

Philip Piccio, president of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition, said he and other members of the group were surprised during Tuesday's Senate hearing when Angara, chair of the committee on banks, decided to close the probe "without hearing us out."

"It seems Senator Angara is supporting or abetting corporate fraud by silencing us plan holders and blocking the Senate investigations into the problems of the pre-need industry," Piccio told reporters yesterday.

Maricel Lopez, lawyer for CAP plan holders, agreed with Piccio. "I was totally shocked by what happened last Tuesday," she said. Lopez added that it was time for the legislators to craft better laws to protect the public from "corporate terrorists" who victimize unsuspecting investors.

Angara's office, however, quickly issued a statement, saying a "hearing is being calendared by the committee and the agenda is to give the plan holders a chance to tell what they want to tell SEC and the Senate."

"It will be their forum and the airing of their complaints will be the sole agenda of the hearing," Angara said in a statement.

In the Senate, the minority bloc is locked in a squabble as to which committee should handle the inquiry into the operations of the pre-need industry.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III took the floor late Wednesday afternoon and moved that the committees on trade and social justice conduct the inquiry because the committee on banks had been sitting on the issue.

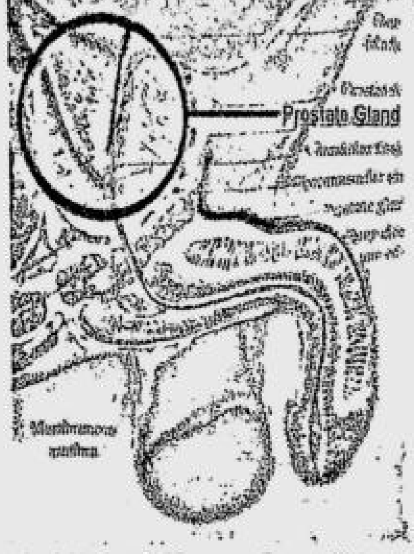
Osmeña said he had written Angara requesting that he conduct hearings on the troubles confronting CAP and PPI, but the committee chair indicated that he would focus first on the pre-need code.

"I would like to listen to the plan holders who have been dying to voice their opinions about what happened to them. Whether they're right or wrong. This is a democratic country. This is their Senate," Osmeña said.

Osmeña's scathing comments on the floor triggered a lengthy, heated debate with Angara, who rebuffed the move to exclude his committee from the inquiry.

"If the gentleman wants his committee on justice to conduct a hearing on CAP, he can do so. But that is at his risk," he retorted.

When A Man Reaches 40, He May Suffer the Symptoms of PROSTATE ENLARGEMENT



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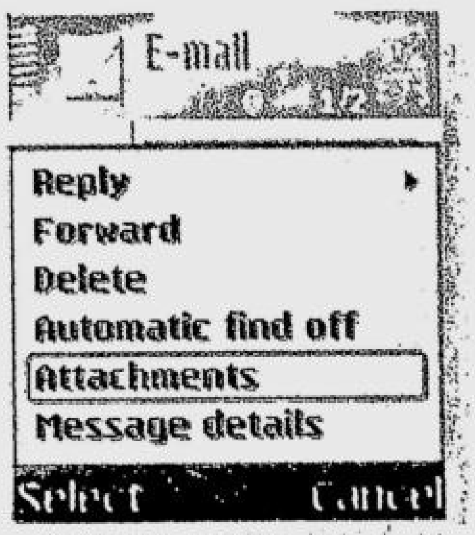

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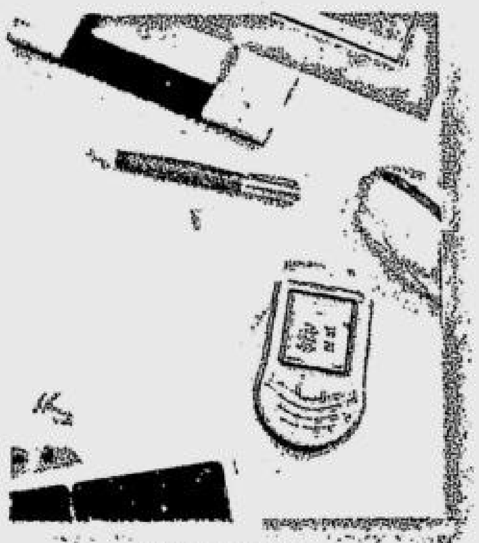

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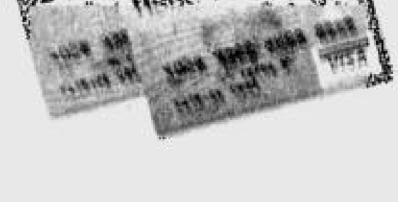

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House urged to adopt 'no work, no pay' policy

From page A1

yesterday urged the House of Representatives to adopt a "no work, no pay" policy.

Liberal Party Representatives Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III (4th District, Quezon) and Manuel "Manny" Mamba (3rd District, Cagayan) called on the House leadership to revise its rules so that truant lawmakers would be deprived of their pay when they do not report for work.

"Ordinary workers, whether they are in the private or public sector, would have deductions in the salary if they do not show up for work. I do not see any reason why the same rules should exempt us," Mamba said.

Tañada noted that since Congress resumed its session on April 11 after the Lenten vacation, the House had a quorum only when it voted for the expanded value-added tax bill. The House is again set to adjourn on June 10.

"It's quite sad that since we opened on April 11, the attendance in the House has been low. The only time we had a quorum was when we passed the VAT law. Outside of that, when we have a roll call," he said.

No question on quorum

Tañada said the majority had to talk to the opposition to ensure that nobody would question the quorum, so that the plenary could continue with its work, mostly debating local bills.

However, this detente breaks down when the House deliberates on controversial bills, like the proposed P125 legislated wage increase, which has failed to pass Congress since the majority usually questions the quorum when it is discussed.

"The P125 wage increase and the antismuggling bill are national bills that need to be taken up and debated upon. If we cannot take up these measures for lack of quorum, what is the basis of those who are habitually absent in plenary from drawing their salary and other operating expenses?" Tañada said.

He said the attendance since for the 236-member House hovered around 80 to 90 lawmakers, which is short of a quorum. On Wednesday, the House adjourned because there were only 106 congressmen when the roll was called.

Some lawmakers laughed like grade school children as their colleagues shouted that they were "present."

Cost of passing a bill

A study funded by the Asian Development Bank earlier estimated that P3 million worth of taxpayers' money is required to pass a bill in the House.

The study also said about P20 billion was spent in 1987-2001 to finance the operations of the house.

Tañada said congressmen should set the example for their constituents by showing up at work to act on key legislative measures.

"During the budget deliberations, we had a steady attendance. But after the new year, this slowly decreased. *Grabe na ngayon,*" Tañada said.

"It's a question of leadership. The majority should know what to do and act since only a few are showing up. It should be concerned," he said.

"I am a neophyte lawmaker and many of my fellow neophytes are concerned that major pieces of legislation are being stalled because of a lack of quorum," Tañada added. ***With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Solons tell Lomibao: Stop 'jueteng'

From page A1

chief Ebdane surprised even his own men by renewing a crackdown on jueteng.

The following month, he announced, still to the surprise of many, that the country was nearly free of the banned game. But the drive made few arrests and bagged not even P1 million worth of bet collections.

Lomibao, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed as PNP chief on March 14, tried a similar tack, and claimed last week that the country was "99-percent jueteng-free."

In Ebdane's case, jueteng operations were indeed halted, according to Cruz.

But the archbishop, who heads the three-year-old Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, cited reports that Ebdane's supposed accomplishment was more show than reality.

"There were reports then that jueteng was stopped simply because those behind it wanted to rearrange the flow of collections and payola to benefit certain politicians for the 2004 [election] campaign," he said.

Cruz had earlier said that under the Arroyo administration, jueteng has grown into a P13-billion-a-year industry.

Absurdity

"We find it absurd that only barely a week after declaring the country jueteng-free, Lomibao is now making excuses that the PNP cannot sustain a jueteng campaign for lack of resources," Cerilles said.

"This is an admission that the PNP cannot handle the jueteng problem, after all," he said.

Cerilles also took the PNP chief to task for saying that jueteng was not a priority of the police: "Lomibao must be reminded that the PNP is not purely an antijueteng organization. Since it is their mandate to stop and prevent anything that is illegal, they should prioritize jueteng, which is illegal, along with other crimes. They should apply a holistic approach to their efforts against crimes and illegal activities."

He also warned Lomibao that the whole administration's integrity was at stake, especially with accusations that high government officials were taking jueteng bribes.

"It's about time the PNP proved it can finish the job. Otherwise its jueteng-free declaration [would be] only for show," he said.

Admission of failure

Cuenco assailed Lomibao for "hedging this early" to justify the PNP's supposed failure to sustain the all-out campaign against jueteng.

"To claim that the PNP lacks the resources to sustain the campaign is an admission of failure. It contradicts his declaration that we are now jueteng-free," Cuenco said.

He said that instead of making excuses, Lomibao and the PNP should implement the full force of the law and get the people's support behind the antijueteng drive.

"The success of the campaign cannot be achieved instantly. The PNP must set a slow but sure plan of action to ensure lasting results," Cuenco said.

He said that if the PNP would waver and wait for the resources it needed to sustain the campaign, the country would "never get anywhere in eliminating the jueteng problem."

LOMIBAO

"The PNP should stop sounding helpless and instead do its best to kill illegal gambling," Cuenco added.

Legalizing jueteng

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that if the PNP was helpless against jueteng, "why is there a position in Congress against [its] legalization?"

Nograles said the PNP's admission of helplessness was "a good argument for legalization—or else that so-called [jueteng] payola will forever be in place without the government getting revenues."

Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., chair of the House committee on public order and security, had summoned Lomibao and other PNP officials to explain their failure to stamp out jueteng and look into the "pros and cons of legalizing a national malady."

At the hearing, Lomibao expressed support for a proposal in Congress to revise Republic Act No. 9287, the law passed in 2004 imposing harsher penalties on those engaged in illegal gambling.

'Admitting the truth'

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said it was about time the PNP admitted the truth.

"We knew that all along, the government is doing an elaborate pantomime; it's all for show," he said, adding that an institution supposedly tainted with jueteng money could not be expected to bite the hand feeding it.

"For a change, the PNP is admitting the truth—that it's inutile in the fight against jueteng and, by extension, exposing its own previous lies that it was on top of the situation," the party-list representative also said.

"Given this admission, however, the PNP is already washing its hands of its responsibility to put an end to the illegal numbers game and round up the gambling lords that run the syndicates," he said.

According to Beltran, the supposed "powerlessness" in fighting jueteng was not a result of the lack of policemen but of the absence of "genuine determination" among the PNP authorities "to capture big-time gambling lords, including the jueteng masterminds and protection-money collectors."

He said the "pro-jueteng orientation among higher-ups" in the Arroyo administration was the "greatest stumbling block" to the eradication of the illegal numbers game.

On the payroll

Beltran noted that many police officials were alleged to be on the payroll of jueteng lords to ensure the racket's protection in the provinces.

He pointed out that even Lomibao was being suspected of involvement in jueteng, "not as a bettor, but as a syndicate protector."

"The credibility of the very people tasked to put an end to the gambling network is even questionable, so it's not surprising that the campaign to put an end to jueteng is just going around in circles," he said, adding:

"The jueteng lords will continue to build their underground gambling empire, and the PNP will make occasional but half-hearted raids on jueteng dens just to project the image that it's doing its job."

Beltran also assailed Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who, he said; could not be relied on to go after the people being named as jueteng protectors in the Senate inquiry.

"Secretary Gonzalez has proven in his previous statements and actions that he is on the side of the members of the presidential family when it comes to this issue," Beltran said. *(See story on front page.)*

He said the Department of Justice would "only be conducting an elaborate pantomime if it actually takes steps to go after the members of the First Family."

"What's certain is that Secretary Gonzalez will focus on the small fry and leave the big fry alone," he added.

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Scandal part of coup plot, says Palace exec

From page A1

the 'men and women' in my life," said Cruz.

"I sympathize with the big preoccupations of all those affected by the ongoing inquiry about the jueteng lords and their payola beneficiaries," he said.

"They are worried. They are disturbed. They are mounting their self-defense with no holds barred."

He said he would ignore them.

The 70-year-old Cruz started the latest controversy on the underground lottery, claiming that jueteng has grown into a P13-billion-a-year industry under the Arroyo administration.

He brought the first witness, Wilfredo Mayor, to the Senate committee investigating jueteng operations. Mayor has implicated the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, in the scandal.

The Malacañang official said the opposition strategy was to use controversial issues to paint a gloomy picture of the country and encourage an uprising against the Arroyo administration.

Pathetic and comical

He said the opposition had projected the value-added tax, the small wage increase, the rising oil and electricity prices, and the jueteng controversy as events that could lead to another Edsa People power.

The official said the plot had a "dress rehearsal" on Labor Day when retired Gen. Fortunato Abat called for a people power revolt to remove Ms Arroyo from office.

He said the opposition would try again June 12 on Independence Day, but the main action would be during the opening of Congress.

The official said the "pathetic and comical scheme" of the plotters was evident in the coming out of Mayor.

He said Mayor going to Archbishop Cruz was an attempt to liken him to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who sought the blessings of then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin before exposing jueteng payoffs to Estrada.

Asked to comment on the official's report, Estrada's spokesperson, ex-Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, said the deposed President had been in detention for four years and visits and phone calls were restricted. Estrada could not possibly plot against the government, he said.

"This administration is afraid of its own shadows and is haunted by the ghosts of the opposition," he said.

"President Estrada is so concerned with his plunder case, especially now that he sees light at the end of the tunnel. On the other hand, this administration is desperate it could not pin him down to plunder so they are making all these funny accusations," he said.

Mindanao newsmen get creative to stay alive

COTABATO CITY—They wear disguises, change their clothes as often as possible and never take the same route to work two days in a row.

Playing hide-and-seek with would-be assassins has become part of the daily routine for journalists in the Philippines, and more so in Mindanao where the price of a life is about P5,000.

Of the 70 journalists killed since the overthrow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, 31 worked in Mindanao, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

The Philippines is the most dangerous country in the world to be a journalist, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, and Mindanao is the problem's epicenter.

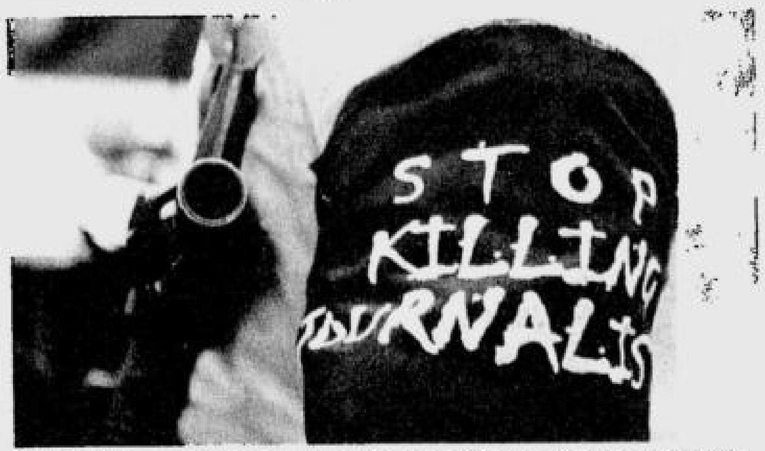
"Once you've aired or printed something against somebody here, you must be prepared to get hurt or hide," said Edwin Fernandez, manager of a Church-run radio station in Cotabato City, a predominant Muslim area.

"When the heat really turns up, you should immediately skip the town. That's the unwritten rule here," Fernandez said.

Like the rest of the country, journalists' lives are cheap in Mindanao because of powerful local political bosses, weak rule of law and the widespread availability of guns. Police have failed to solve any of the 70 killings.

Adding to the volatile mix in Mindanao are communist guerrillas, Moro separatists, kidnap gangs and al-Qaida-linked militants.

Journalists in Cotabato, the main city in Central Mindanao, have been lucky as well as clever.



A RADIO journalist wears an armband while carrying an assault rifle inside a radio station in General Santos City. REUTERS/ERIK DE CASTRO

There have been no killings reported here since 1986, but many reporters from local radio stations and community-based newspapers have only stayed alive by leaving town.

Malu Manar, a reporter at Fernandez's station, moved away from Cotabato City last October after criticizing some local officials in her talk show program.

"When some men went looking for my two daughters at their school, that was it," Manar told Reuters.

"It was difficult and painful. It was a traumatic experience for my family. Even now, I have not really lowered my guard. I still play hide-and-seek."

Journalist killings are not always a case of impartial crusaders being targeted.

Low pay means they are vulnerable to corruption and are sometimes used by one local boss to attack another through criticism on the radio or in newspaper columns.

"Journalists are not saints," Alejandro Reblando, a reporter for one of the largest Manila-based dailies, said. "There are scalawags in our ranks, but the sad thing is those that got killed were the straight ones."

Aquiles Zonio, a correspondent for the Philippine Daily Inquirer based in nearby General Santos City, said reporters in Mindanao had been killed just for pricking the egos of local officials.

A hit man can be hired for about P5,000, according to local journalists.

"The main threat to reporters here are the people who are in power," Zonio said.

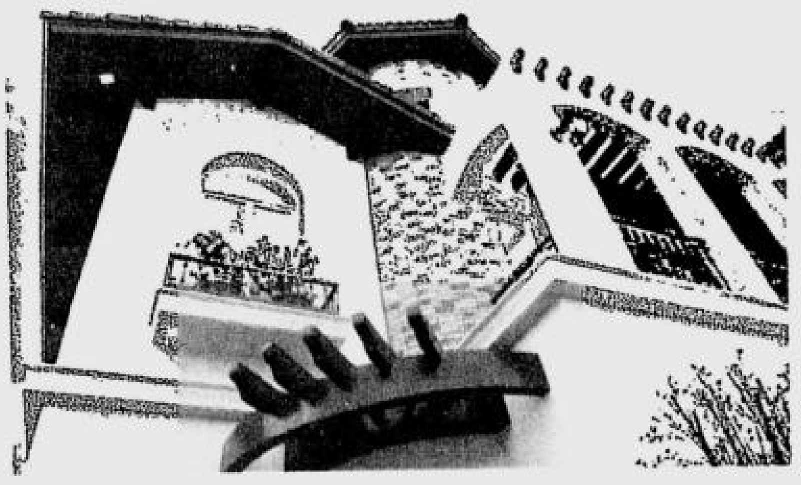
Manar said she wore wigs, hats, and even dressed up as a man to fool possible assassins.

Others don't feel safe without guns and bodyguards.

"Our government cannot give us protection," said Vic Dante, who packs an automatic rifle and a pistol even while anchoring his 90-minute morning talk show six times a week.

Dante said he had received more than a dozen death threats from rebels, illegal loggers and corrupt policemen among others.

"On the issue of personal safety, we should not rely on somebody else to protect us. That's our right and duty," he said. *Reuters*



The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

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The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

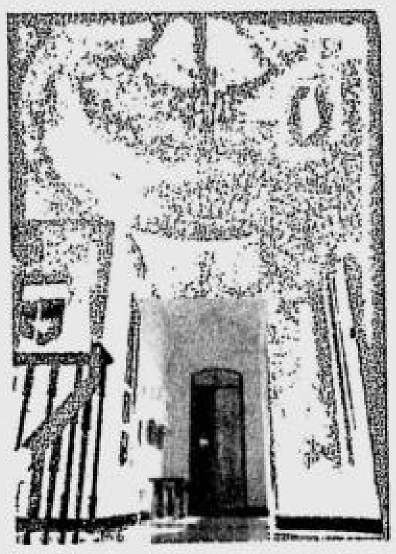
The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.



Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

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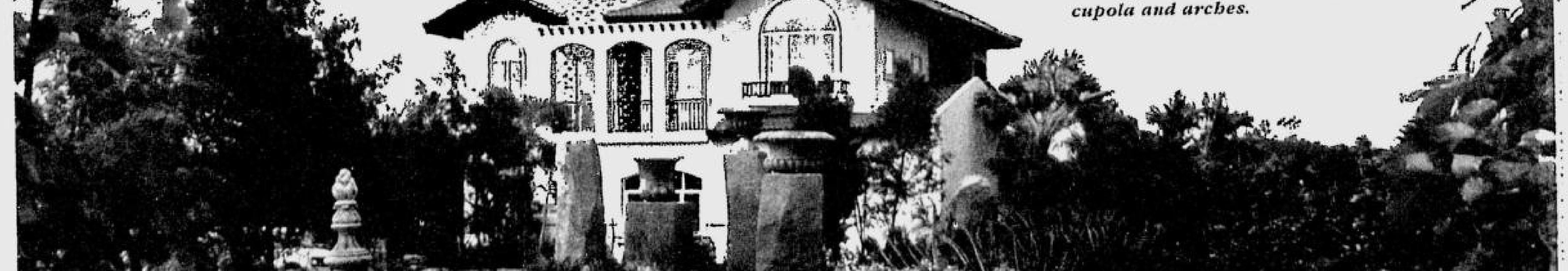

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Sandigan urged to order arrest of Garcia's wife

By Philip C. Tubeza

DON'T FORGET the wife.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez yesterday called on the Sandiganbayan to have the wife of ex-Armed Forces comptroller Carlos Garcia arrested, saying that Clarita Garcia was "equally guilty" of plunder and that it was "crystal clear" she could be charged as a co-principal in the case.

Golez said it was Clarita Garcia who had admitted in two affidavits—one typewritten and the other handwritten—in April 2004 that the family had amassed ill-gotten wealth.

He pointed out that Clarita submitted the affidavits to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents as an appeal for the return of the $100,000 confiscated from two of the three Garcia sons at the airport in San Francisco, California, in December 2003.

Golez, chair of the House committee on defense that started the inquiry on Garcia's unexplained wealth, recalled that Clarita had admitted that the $100,000 was part of her husband's kickbacks as AFP comptroller.

His statements echoed the earlier reactions of Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who both said that Garcia's wife and children should be charged as co-principals in the plunder case and not as mere accessories.

No order yet

The Sandiganbayan has, meanwhile, set Garcia's arraignment for July 5.

Villa-Ignacio yesterday clarified that contrary to the Thursday report in the INQUIRER, the Sandiganbayan had yet to issue an order that would allow Garcia's wife and sons to post bail.

He said the antigraft court's second division led by Justice Edilberto Sandoval was still waiting for the prosecution's motion for reconsideration regarding the non-inclusion of Clarita Garcia and sons Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark as co-principals.

Plunder, an offense punishable by death or life imprisonment, is a nonbailable crime. But the non-inclusion of Clarita and sons in the charge sheet as co-principals would allow them to post bail.

Sandoval and the other members of the second division—Justices Francisco Villaruz and Rodolfo Ponferrada—ruled last Wednesday that the evidence presented by the prosecution had fallen short of the required quantum of evidence to make Clarita and sons liable as co-principals.

They further ruled that the evidence submitted by government lawyers showed that Clarita and sons benefited from the supposed plunder only after it had been committed.

The justices said they would issue warrants of arrest for Clarita and sons only if the prosecution agreed to charge them as accessories. *With reports from Nelson F. Flores and Bernice Mendoza, trainee*

GARCIA

Plywood bed, ₱30 daily meal for Garcia, Detainee No. 66

From page A1

detained since last October.

The center for "high-risk" prisoners is at the heart of Camp Crame. Enclosed by high walls topped by barbed wire, the 36-cell facility is guarded 24 hours a day by policemen armed with automatic rifles.

At present, Garcia is alone in the cell that can actually hold up to four persons. He has little or no privacy; tower guards can easily check on him because the front of his cell is made of iron bars.

No appliance or equipment—whether a refrigerator or a TV set, or even a mobile phone—is allowed inside the cell.

But there is a small TV set that inmates rotate among themselves. This means Garcia will have to wait his turn if he wants to view the news.

Strict supervision

The way Barias described it, Garcia's stay at Camp Crame would be heavily regulated.

Breakfast is at 6 a.m., lunch at noon, and dinner shortly before 6 p.m.

"The meals are [worth] P30 a day, but food [from outside] is not prohibited, provided it is inspected," Barias said.

So far, he said, inmates had not complained about the quality of the meals.

Exercise is allowed in a common area at least twice a week.

Visits are strictly supervised. In Garcia's case, only his lawyer has access to him any time of the day.

Under the rules, a sick inmate is taken to the PNP Hospital. He will be taken to another medical facility only if the hospital chief says he needs further treatment or if doctors cannot handle his case.

All transfers require a court order.

Barias assured the public of Garcia's safety.

He also said no inmate would be able to escape the custodial center: "We can assure you that because that is our duty. We'll be on the chopping block if something happens to [Garcia] or to any other detainee."

Taken by surprise

Shortly before showing reporters a number of empty cells, Barias narrated how Garcia was taken aback by his transfer to Camp Crame.

"He was surprised when he was brought here," Barias said. "He was wearing a *barong* and I asked him if he had [brought] his belongings. He told me he had left them all at the Isafp holding center."

Chief Inspector Rellora later told the INQUIRER that Garcia's stuff arrived from Isafp yesterday morning.

The general now has a mattress, Rellora said.

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'Jueteng-free' certification . . .

From page A1

in Manila to "clear" his name.

Trilles insisted that "jueteng" had been stamped out in Bato as early as May 22, or a few days before all field commanders of the Philippine National Police were ordered to submit a certification saying so.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao sacked Trilles after Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz read aloud at the Senate's joint inquiry on Monday the winning jueteng combination in Bato.

Trilles said that as soon as he learned of what had happened, he knew he would be sacked. He had served as Bato police chief for only six months.

"Anything a priest says is always believed," he said in Filipino.

Trilles met with Lomibao yesterday to tell him that jueteng was now nonexistent in Bato.

"The first thing [Lomibao] asked me was if it was true that jueteng operations were still ongoing. I told him no," Trilles said.

But he said he accepted Lomibao's decision to replace him.

Trilles, however, submitted a second certification, again signed by the town mayor, parish priest and a number of residents, stating that Bato was "jueteng-free."

He quoted Lomibao as saying he would be reinstated as soon as the validating team sent to Bato had certified that jueteng was indeed dead in the town.

Senior Supt. Arnold Revilla and Supt. Saadra Gani, police chiefs of Sorsogon province and city, respectively, were also sacked this week because of persistent reports that jueteng lords continued to hold sway in their areas.

Cruz vs Sorra

At the Senate, the case of Archbishop Cruz versus Legazpi Bishop Jose Sorra has been raised by Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Cruz has gained national prominence as the scourge of jueteng operators and their protectors in government.

At the start of the Senate investigation, he presented confessed jueteng lord Wilfredo "Boy Bicol" Mayor, who linked President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, other legislators and police and local officials to the illegal numbers racket.

Cruz's witness named Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Albay Representatives Carlos Imperial and Jose Salceda, as well as former Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro, as among those who had received jueteng payola through bagmen.

But Senator Arroyo pointed out that Sorra issued a pastoral statement as early as Ash Wednesday two months ago heaping praise on Imperial.

In his pastoral letter, Sorra noted that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had issued a collective statement against gambling, which identified jueteng as one of the "social scourges" weakening the economic and moral fiber of poverty-stricken Philippines.

'Rainbow of hope'

In his testimony at the Senate inquiry, Cruz's witness Mayor said he had monthly given, through bagmen, P250,000 to Luistro, P300,000 to Imperial, P400,000 to Salceda, and P600,000 to Mikey Arroyo.

Mayor said the payola for Imperial was received by his bagman, a certain SPO1 Charlie Llasos.

But Sorra wrote in his pastoral letter: "Incidentally, a very encouraging rainbow of hope has appeared in the overcast gambling skies of Albay.

"The good congressman of the 2nd district of Albay, the Hon. Carlos R. Imperial, has signaled the first salvo against the illegal game of numbers called jueteng."

Sorra said Imperial had directed PNP regional director Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda in a letter to "order the Albay provincial commander and station commanders to stop the operations of ... jueteng" in his district.

According to Sorra, Imperial admitted that jueteng was prevalent in his district, based on information reaching his office.

The bishop wrote: "We, the Church sector of the Diocese of Legazpi, highly commend and vigorously support the good congressman's bold stroke of the pen to serve notice to the [police] authorities that he personally and unequivocally condemn[s] and denounce[s] this moral evil of illegal gambling that is jueteng.

"It is indeed heartening to note that the political congressional leadership of the 2nd district of Albay has openly and strongly come out to take the lead in expressing its political will to curb and put a stop to jueteng.

"Would the political leadership in the other two Albay congressional districts follow suit?"

Reyes wants strong cases vs 'jueteng operators'

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered his undersecretary for local governments, the National Police Commission and the Philippine National Police to coordinate closely with the Department of Justice investigation panel to build a strong case against "jueteng" operators and their supposed protectors in the government.

Reyes, the concurrent chair of the Napolcom, directed Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman Jr., Napolcom vice chair Imelda Crisol-Roces and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao to submit to the DOJ special committee documentary evidence against those involved in illegal numbers games, including officials benefiting from jueteng operations.

"We need to work together so we can have strong evidence and file the necessary charges not only against the jueteng bettors, operators and [managers] but also their protectors and coddlers in the government," Reyes said.

He also ordered the three officials to provide the DOJ committee the results of investigations, cases filed, and leads, "as well as the reasons for the relief of PNP unit commanders related to illegal gambling." *Norman Bordadora*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Dutch join French in dumping EU Charter

PARIS—Europe was left agonizing over the future of the EU Constitution on Thursday after voters in the Netherlands joined the French in rejecting it, but many leaders insisted the treaty was still alive and worth preserving.

Dutch voters on Wednesday followed their French counterparts in rejecting the draft constitution but the bloc's Luxembourg presidency and heavyweights France and Germany demanded that the process of ratifying the charter be allowed to continue in other member states.

But Britain said the result raised "profound questions" over the future of the constitution, while other commentators said it was expiring fast.

Italian Prime Minister Giulio Tremonti went even further.

"I think that the European Constitution as it has been presented and managed is finished," he said early Thursday.

"After a popular vote such as took place in France and the Netherlands, I think that the process on the text is finished. I see no alternative, technically or politically."

Most leaders said they were now looking toward a June 16-17 Brussels summit that has suddenly assumed crucial importance in determining the road ahead for the beleaguered bloc.

In the Netherlands, where the major political parties campaigned in favor of the Constitution, nearly 62 percent of people rejected it.

The result followed a similar referendum Sunday in France, another founding member of the 25-nation bloc, when just under 55 percent voted 'non.'

The EU's Luxembourg presidency said the process of ratifying the treaty in other European nations should be allowed to continue despite the setbacks.

"I remain... of the view the ratification process must be able to continue in other states," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said.

He vowed to bring proposals to the upcoming summit that would help the bloc recover its poise. "It is not the first blow to Europe," he added.

"There have been others, since the 1950s until late in the 1970s, and each time Europe got over them, got up again and continued along its road."

But he acknowledged the impact of the crushing Dutch vote, saying it showed that "Europe no longer makes people dream."

The euro currency has been one of the early casualties of the 'no' votes.

It rebounded slightly in early Asian trade Thursday after dropping to a nine-month low of 1.2157 against the dollar during New York trade on Wednesday, its lowest level since last September.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose country has already endorsed the EU treaty, said in a statement: "I am convinced that we need the constitution if we want a democratic, social-minded and strong Europe."

He said the ratification process—nine nations have already endorsed the constitution—must be allowed to continue. *AFP*

At least 50 dead in western Ivory Coast clashes

ABIDJAN—Men armed with machetes and rifles stormed two western Ivory Coast villages overnight, killing at least 50 people in what security forces and local officials described Wednesday as ethnic clashes.

"The bodies of 50 people, all of them Guere, have been taken to hospital," said Marcel Djahi, mayor of Duekoue, a town in the loyalist southwest considered a tinderbox for the ethnic and communal violence that has marked the three-year conflict in Ivory Coast.

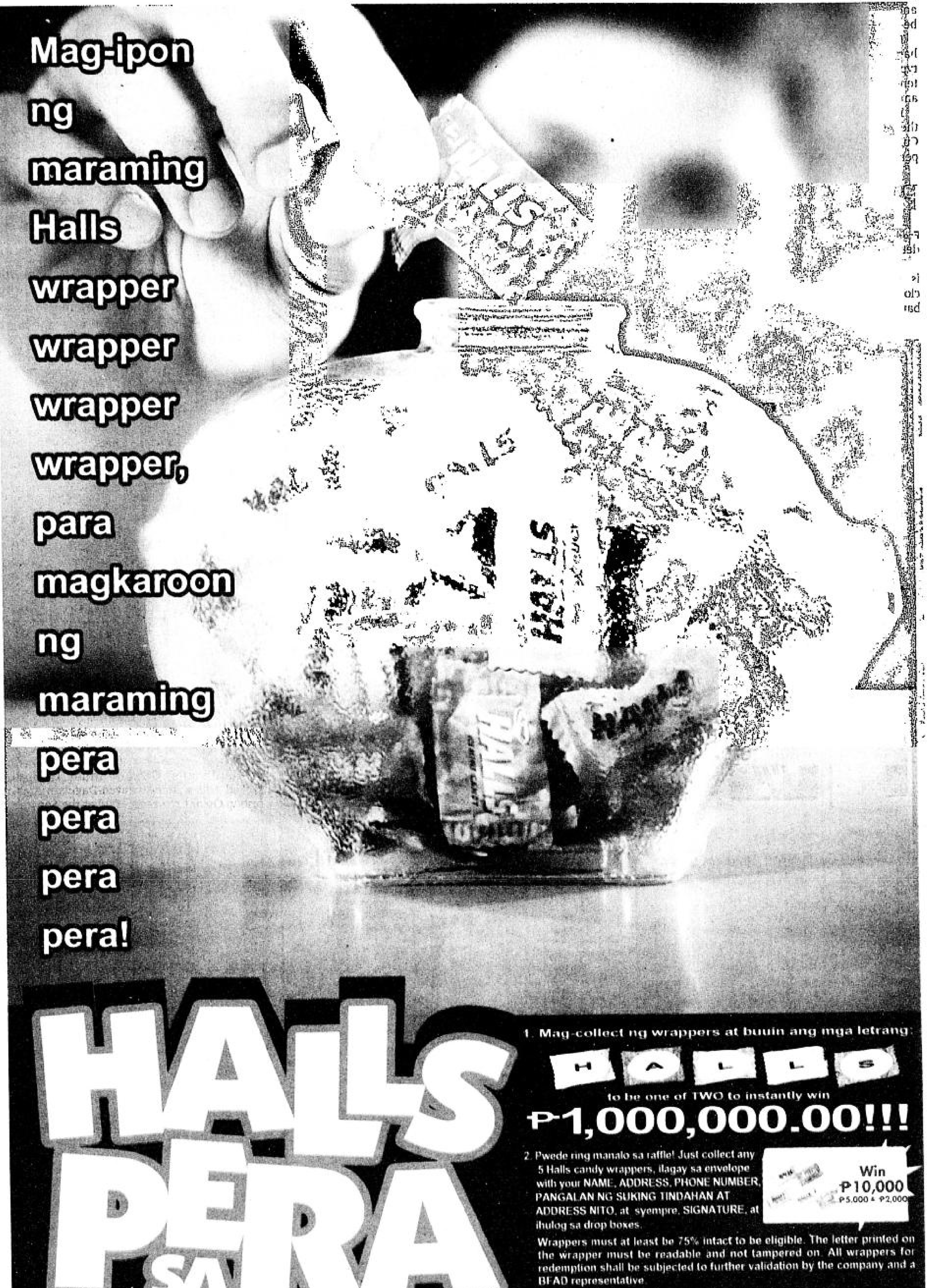
An official death toll of 41 has been confirmed, with some 64 people injured, said armed forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Jules Yao Yao.

A senior UN official said among the dead were four soldiers of the Ivorian national army staffing a command post during the pre-dawn attacks, which he said appeared to be a reprisal for last week's killing of four ethnic Senufo, among the legions of economic migrants lured to the world's top cocoa producer.

Administrative Reform Minister Eric Kahe said the targeted villages were Guitrozon and Petit Duekoue, mostly populated by Guere, an ethnic group that straddles the western border with Liberia.

"The assailants entered the homes, killing and cutting the throats of the townspeople, using pistols and rifles and knives," he said.

Eleven people were burned alive in their home, by attackers that witnesses said were traditional hunters from the north, he said. *AFP*



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Woodward tells how FBI man became 'Deep Throat'

SALT Lake FBI chief Mark Felt shows off his pistol skills in this Jan. 20, 1958 picture. AP

WASHINGTON—A chance encounter with a senior FBI official in 1970 grew into a friendship and as the Watergate scandal unfolded the official became the "Deep Throat" source for the stories that helped bring down President Richard Nixon, reporter Bob Woodward wrote in The Washington Post on Thursday.

Woodward said he was a young Navy lieutenant on an errand at the White House when he first met Mark Felt, who was unveiled this week as the instrumental source for the Post's Watergate stories written by Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

"I asked Felt for his phone number and he gave me the direct line to his office," Woodward wrote. He said he came to regard the senior FBI official as a friend and a mentor and kept in touch with him.

Felt was promoted to the No. 3 position at the FBI in July 1971, about a year before J. Edgar Hoover's death and the Watergate break-in, and two months before Woodward joined The Washington Post.

Woodward said he turned to Felt after he and Bernstein wrote about the break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex in Washington.

"This was the moment when a source or friend in the investigative agencies of government is invaluable," Woodward said. "I called Felt at the FBI... It would be our first talk about Watergate."

Woodward said Felt told him the Watergate burglary case was going to "heat up" for reasons he could not explain and abruptly hung up. But he started providing guidance on the story, Woodward said.

"Felt believed he was protecting the bureau by finding a way, clandestine as it was, to push some of the information from the FBI interviews and files out to the public, to help build public and political pressure to make Nixon and his people answerable. He had nothing but contempt for the Nixon White House and their efforts to manipulate the bureau for political reasons," Woodward wrote.

Given the complexity of the fast-breaking Watergate story, Woodward said, there was "little tendency or time" to consider the motives of sources. He also noted that Felt was immensely disappointed at being passed over to succeed Hoover.

The clandestine exchanges began when Woodward went to Felt's home in suburban Virginia one night after failing to reach him by telephone. "He said no more phone calls, no more visits to his home, nothing in the open," Woodward wrote, saying he was instructed to follow strict counter-surveillance techniques for their meetings at a parking garage in Rosslyn, Virginia, across the Potomac River from the US capital.

He and Felt worked out a notification system for when either of them wanted a meeting, Woodward said. He said he signaled Felt using a small red flag in an empty flowerpot on his apartment balcony. Felt would put a signal in Woodward's copy of The New York Times delivered outside his apartment.

"How this was done, I never knew," Woodward wrote. "Page 20 would be circled, and the hands of a clock in the lower part of the page would be drawn to indicate the time of the meeting that night."

Woodward said he did not know at the time that in Felt's earliest days at the FBI, during World War Two, Felt had learned a lot about German spying and after the war spent time keeping suspected Soviet agents under surveillance.

Reuters

Anti-Syrian journalist murdered in bombing

BEIRUT—Prominent anti-Syrian journalist Samir Kassir was killed Thursday in a car bomb explosion in a residential sector of mostly Christian eastern Beirut on Thursday, an AFP correspondent said.

The body of Kassir, 45, was in the front passenger seat of a car parked in the Ashrafiyeh neighborhood, which was immediately sealed by the Lebanese army and internal security forces.

Witnesses said another person was injured in the explosion and taken to hospital.

The killing came four days after the start of Lebanon's first parliamentary elections free of the presence of Syrian troops, whose withdrawal from the country was completed in late April after a 29-year deployment.

His brother, Sleiman Kassir, said that "Samir lived all his life in danger."

When asked about the possible reasons for his assassination, he said: "he used to write all these articles against Syria."

Kassir is a prominent editorialist in the leading An-Nahar newspaper where he regularly wrote virulent articles against the pro-Syrian Lebanese regime.

AFP

NZ's Clark steps into Japan-China dispute

TOKYO—New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark stepped into a row Thursday between Japan and China, suggesting her counterpart Junichiro Koizumi is risking Japan's UN Security Council aspirations by visiting a war shrine, Japanese officials said.

China has vowed to block Japan from becoming a permanent member of the Security Council in part because of Koizumi's annual pilgrimage to the Yasukuni shrine that honors Japanese war dead including war criminals.

In a summit in Tokyo, Clark told Koizumi she "wondered if the Japan-China relationship might affect Japan's wish to secure membership in the UN Security Council," said an official at Japan's foreign ministry.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan reported Clark using stronger language in her meeting with the party's leader Katsuya Okada.

AFP

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ERRATUM

In the ad of the Canyon Woods Grande International Vacation Club Inc., regarding Securities and Exchange Commission Registration of 1,560 Membership Certificates published in this newspaper last Friday, May 27, 2005, we inadvertently published the wrong material. Below is the correct material that was supposed to be published at the aforementioned date.

Our Apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines 1554
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL
VACATION CLUB, INC.
(Registrant) Registration of Securities

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on March 31, 2005, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL VACATION CLUB, INC. for the registration of its One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty (1,560) Membership Certificates, divided into Nine Hundred Thirty Six (936) Full Share Ownership Certificates and Six Hundred Twenty Four (624) Half Share Ownership Certificates at a price range of Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P325,000.00) to Seven Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos (P775,000.00) each.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
George S. Go	President and CEO
Terry L. Go	Director/Treasurer
Evelyn Go	Director/Financial Officer
Benjamin Y. Sison	Director/Comptroller
Antonio C. Villareal	Director/Principal Operating Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business, hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - May 25 & 27, 2005)

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3 suicide bombings north of Baghdad kill 16

BAGHDAD—Three suicide car bombings killed 16 people in northern Iraq on Thursday, including a top municipal council leader plus a bodyguard of Iraq's Kurdish prime minister, police said.

Continuing violence during the past days has also claimed the lives of three children, a US soldier and a Sunni Muslim cleric, underscoring the rampant, random nature of an insurgency that has killed more than 780 people since the April 28 announcement of Iraq's new Shiite-led government.

At least 10 people were killed and 40 wounded in a massive explosion targeting a restaurant at 8 a.m. in Tuz Khormato, 88 km south of the northern oil city of Kirkuk, said police Lt. Sabah Hidayat.

The bombing targeted the town's Baghdad Restaurant, where bodyguards of Iraq's Kurdish deputy prime minister, Rowsch Nouri Shaways, were eating, said police said police Brig. Sarhad Qadre.

"I was sitting inside my restaurant when about six cars parked nearby and their passengers came inside and ordered food," said restaurant owner Ahmed al-Dawoudi. "Seconds later, I heard a big explosion and the restaurant was turned into twisted wreckage and rubble. Blood and pieces of flesh were everywhere."

Shaways was not at the restaurant at the time of the blast, which killed 10 diners, including one his guards. At least 40 were wounded, including six Shaways guards. Kurds, who want oil-rich Kirkuk to be part of their autonomous Kurdistan region, have been regularly targeted by insurgent attacks.

The blast set ablaze eight cars in the restaurant's car park, the focal point of a bloody, rubble-strewn scene that US and Iraqi police quickly cordoned off. Shards of glass, shoes and splattered breakfast meals covered the restaurant's floor as emergency workers raced around overturned tables and wooden chairs in a bid to treat the casualties.

"The suicide bomber detonated his car outside Baghdad Restaurant where the bodyguards stopped for a while to eat breakfast while heading to (the northern city of) Sulaimaniyah from Baghdad," said Col. Abbas Mohamed Amin, chief of Tuz Khormato police.

Amin said the car used in the attack was a white Toyota sedan and believes the bomber followed the guards from Baghdad.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, a suicide car bomber apparently targeting two US consulate vehicles killed two Iraqi bystanders and wounded eight others in this northern city Thursday, police Brig. Sarhad Qadre said. The explosion, which happened at 8:30 p.m., did not damage the American vehicles.

Further south in Baqouba, about 60 km northeast of Baghdad, another suicide bomber killed four people, including Hussein Alwan al-Tamimi, deputy head of Iraq's northeastern Diyala provincial council, police Col. Mudhafar Mohammed said.

A US soldier assigned to the Marines was killed when a roadside bomb struck the vehicle he was traveling in Wednesday near the volatile western Iraqi city of Ramadi, the military announced Thursday.

As of Thursday, at least 1,664 US military members have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. *AP*

Iraq in deep environmental hole

AMMAN—Iraq's environmental problems—among world's worst—range from a looted nuclear site which needs cleaning up to sabotaged oil pipelines, a UN official said on Thursday.

"An improvement is almost impossible in these security conditions. Chemicals are seeping into groundwater and the situation is becoming worse and creating additional health problems," said Pekka Haavisto, Iraq task force chair at the United Nations Environmental Program.

"Iraq is the worst case we have assessed and is difficult to compare. After the Balkan War we could immediately intervene for protection, such as the river Danube, but not in Iraq," Haavisto, a former Finnish environment minister, said on a visit to Jordan to meet with Iraqi officials.

Lack of spare parts and Iraq's inability to maintain pollution standards during two previous wars and more than a decade of crushing sanctions have damaged the environment, including the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where most of Iraq's sewage flows untreated.

The situation became worse after the 2003 US-led invasion, in which depleted uranium munitions were used against Iraq for the second time and postwar looting and burning of the once formidable infrastructure caused massive spills and toxic plumes, Haavisto said.

"The bombing and war carried a cost but the looting cost the environment more, such as in the Dora refinery or Tuwaitha nuclear storage," Haavisto said.

"There has not been proper cleanup and only assessment work at some of these sites. Very little has changed and Iraqi teams are in the process of getting in some of these locations."

The UN official was referring to the 56 sq. km Tuwaitha complex south of Baghdad where 3,000 barrels that stored nuclear compounds were looted.

In the Dora depot on the edge of Baghdad, 5,000 barrels of chemicals, including tetra ethylene lead, were spilt burnt or stolen, a UN survey showed.

Contaminated sites near the water supply also include a 200 sq. km military industrial complex, torched or looted cement factories and fertilizer plants, of which Iraq was one of the world's largest producers, and oil spills. *AP*

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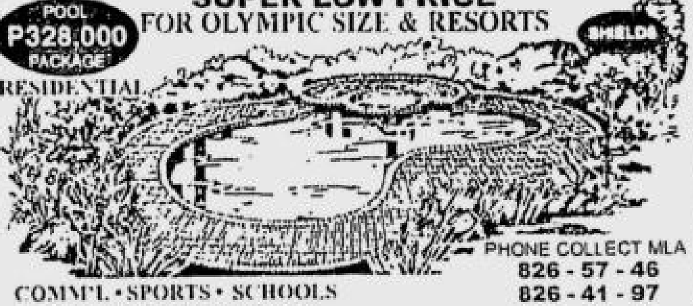
(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - June 2 & 3, 2005)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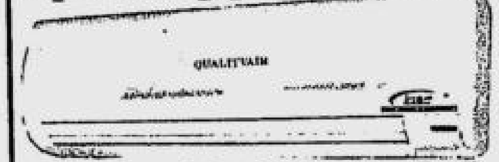
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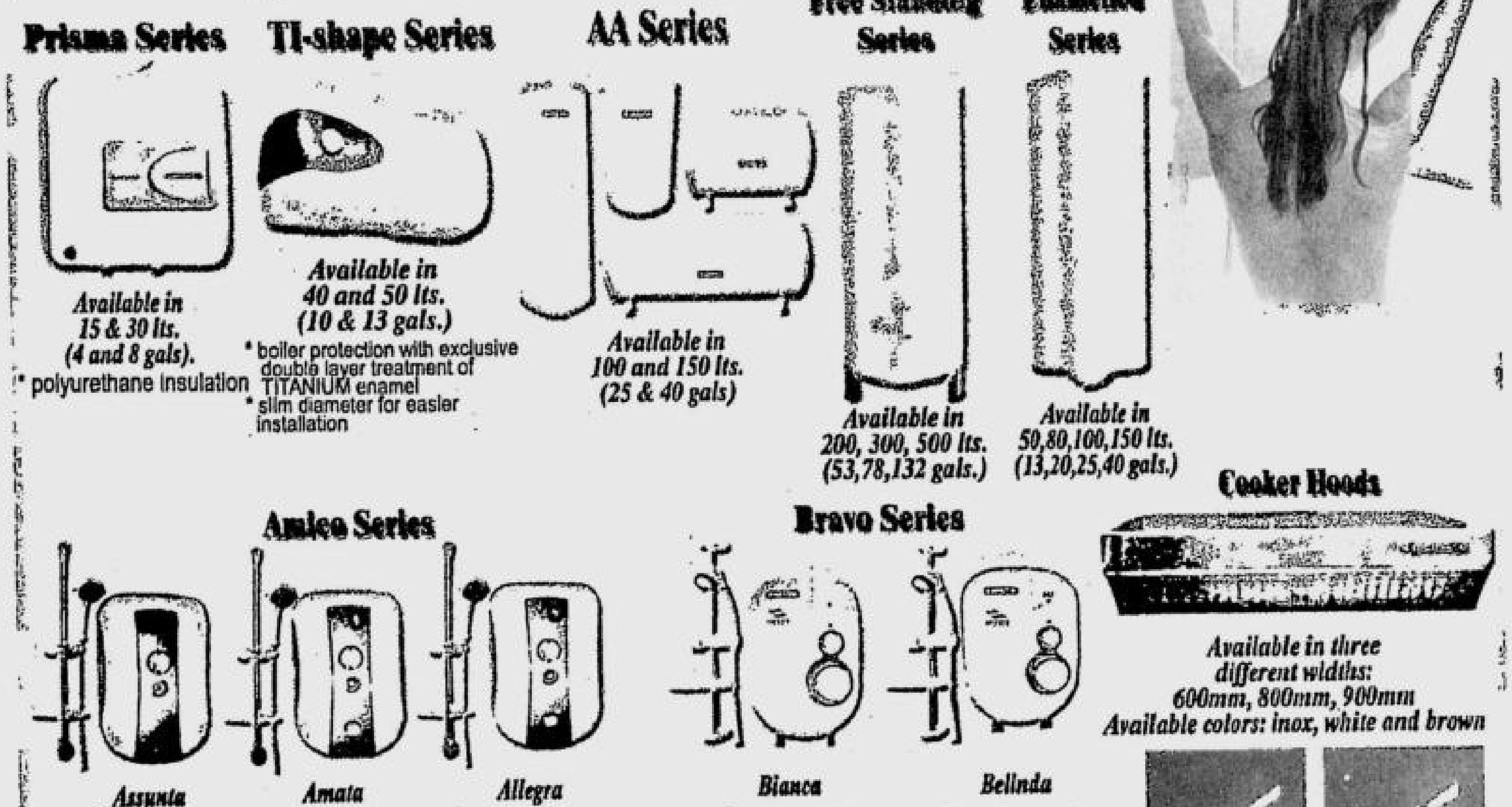
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Israel releasing 400 Palesti

JERUSALEM—Israel on Thursday began to release some 400 Palestinian prisoners in a bid to bolster Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and fulfill a pledge made nearly four months ago to free 900 detainees.

In Amman, meanwhile, at the end of a marathon overseas tour, Abbas, 70, underwent "routine" medical tests including a heart examination late Wednesday, his cardiologist, Dr Abdullah al-Bashir, said. The results were "normal."

Approving the releases, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the move was necessary to "strengthen the moderate elements within the Palestinian Authority" and respect commitments made at a February peace summit.

Palestinian officials have slammed the move as inadequate, as negotiators continue to press for the release of long-term detainees.

Israel has so far refused to free anyone involved in deadly attacks—namely those with "blood on their hands."

The release of some 400 prisoners "has begun in prisons managed by the prison services, as well as army detention camps," Orit Stetzer, a spokesperson for the prison service, said.

The Army said a total of 398 prisoners were being freed, but two had refused.

The detainees were to be released at four drop-off points across the West Bank and at the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza, it said.

Most would be delivered to waiting relatives at checkpoints near the southern West Bank city of Hebron and west of Tulkarem to the north. The rest would be dropped off near Ramallah, Jenin and at Erez, the Army said.

Israel's supreme court on Wednesday threw out appeals from various extreme right groups protesting against the prospective releases.

But the chair of the parliamentary defense and foreign affairs committee, Youval Steinitz, said the move was ridiculous.

"It is absurd. The Palestinians are plotting suicide attacks and we are releasing prisoners," said the MP from Sharon's right-wing Likud party.

Israeli police said Wednesday they had arrested two Palestinian would-be suicide bombers planning a double attack on Jerusalem.

Ministers approved the releases on Sunday, nearly four months after the February summit between Abbas and Sharon.

An initial batch of 500 were freed in the weeks after the summit, but the process was quickly frozen following a Feb. 25 Palestinian suicide attack in Tel Aviv that killed five Israelis.

Israel has stalled promised security transfers in the West Bank, repeatedly accusing the Palestinian Authority of failing to stop attacks and dismantle armed groups.

Sharon announced he would reactivate the releases ahead of landmark talks between Abbas and US President George W. Bush last week in Washington and amid a spike in violence threatening a de facto truce in the Gaza Strip.

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UN fires first staffer over oil-for-food role

UNITED NATIONS—Secretary General Kofi Annan, himself under attack for mismanagement of the Iraq oil-for-food program, has dismissed his first UN official linked to the scandal-tainted humanitarian plan, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Joseph Stephanides, a veteran midlevel official who contends his actions were approved by his superiors, was accused by a UN-appointed inquiry of steering a lucrative contract under the oil-for-food program to a British firm.

Annan, who was not secretary general when the incident took place in 1996, concluded Stephanides committed "serious misconduct" and "was separated from service with immediate effect," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

Stephanides denied breaking any rules and vowed to appeal.

"There were tremendous pressures to cut corners and accelerate the institutional arrangements because civilians were suffering in Iraq and oil-for-food had to be started as soon as possible," he said. "To make me the fall guy for that—this is really preposterous."

Under the $67 billion program, Iraq was allowed to sell oil to buy civilian goods in order to ease the impact on ordinary Iraqis of UN sanctions imposed after Baghdad invaded neighboring Kuwait in 1990.

After the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraq's new leaders disclosed ways Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had undercut the program by bribing and soliciting bribes in exchange for contracts.

The entire UN-administered program is being inv
tigated, and Annan, who to
office in 1997, has come u
der criticism for failing to ro
out mismanagement.

Paul Volcker, the former
Federal Reserve chair w
heads an independent inqu
into oil-for-food, has clear
Annan of interfering in t
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nian detainees

for another Abbas-Sharon June 21, which Sharon's was agreed upon during alks on Wednesday.

ians have criticized the re- falling well short of de- up to 5,000 of the esti- 00 inmates to be freed.

cision is not enough," said tinian negotiator Saeb Er- ng to the Cabinet approval tional releases on Sunday.

as in particular pushed for of long-term prisoners al- ael has refused to release olved in deadly attacks.

stinian leader was to return tories later Thursday after a overseas tour and undergo- lical examinations in Jordan.

groups, which have ob- de facto truce since late ad made their cool-down l on the release of all stinians held in Israel and l Israeli aggression.

was widely criticized in 2003 for failing to release more than several hundred prisoners during the moderate Abbas's short term as prime minister.

After failing to persuade Israel to release more substantial numbers of prisoners, Abbas found himself severely weakened in a power struggle with the then Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat and subsequently resigned. *AFP*

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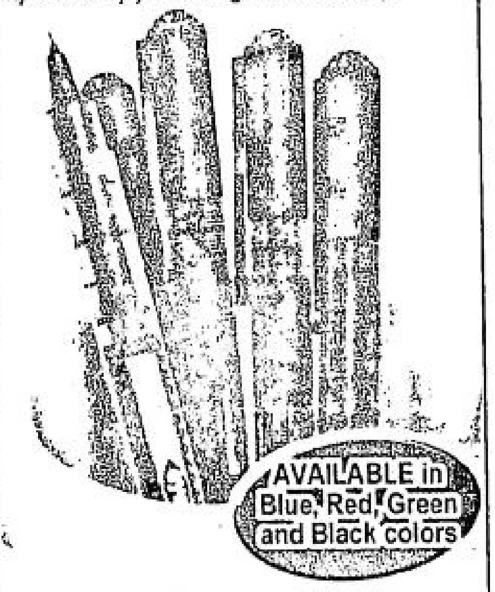
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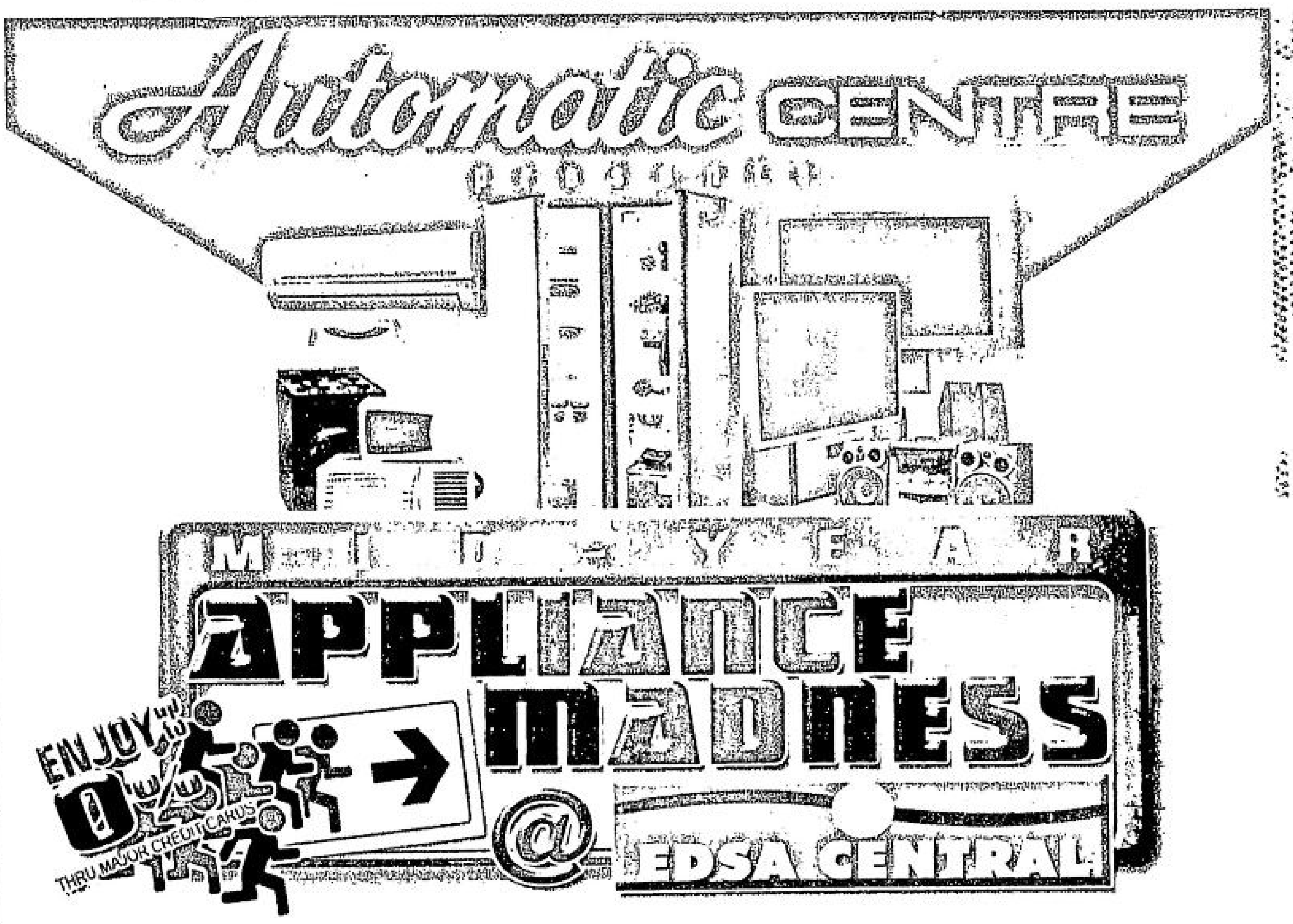

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Boondoggle

EDITORIAL

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu says that the 60-room resort being built in Boracay for the use of military personnel is not his project. "There was no proper request sent to me seeking my approval," he told the committee of national defense of the House of Representatives. "I did not know the details of the project." But his statements contradicted what his subordinate officers had said.

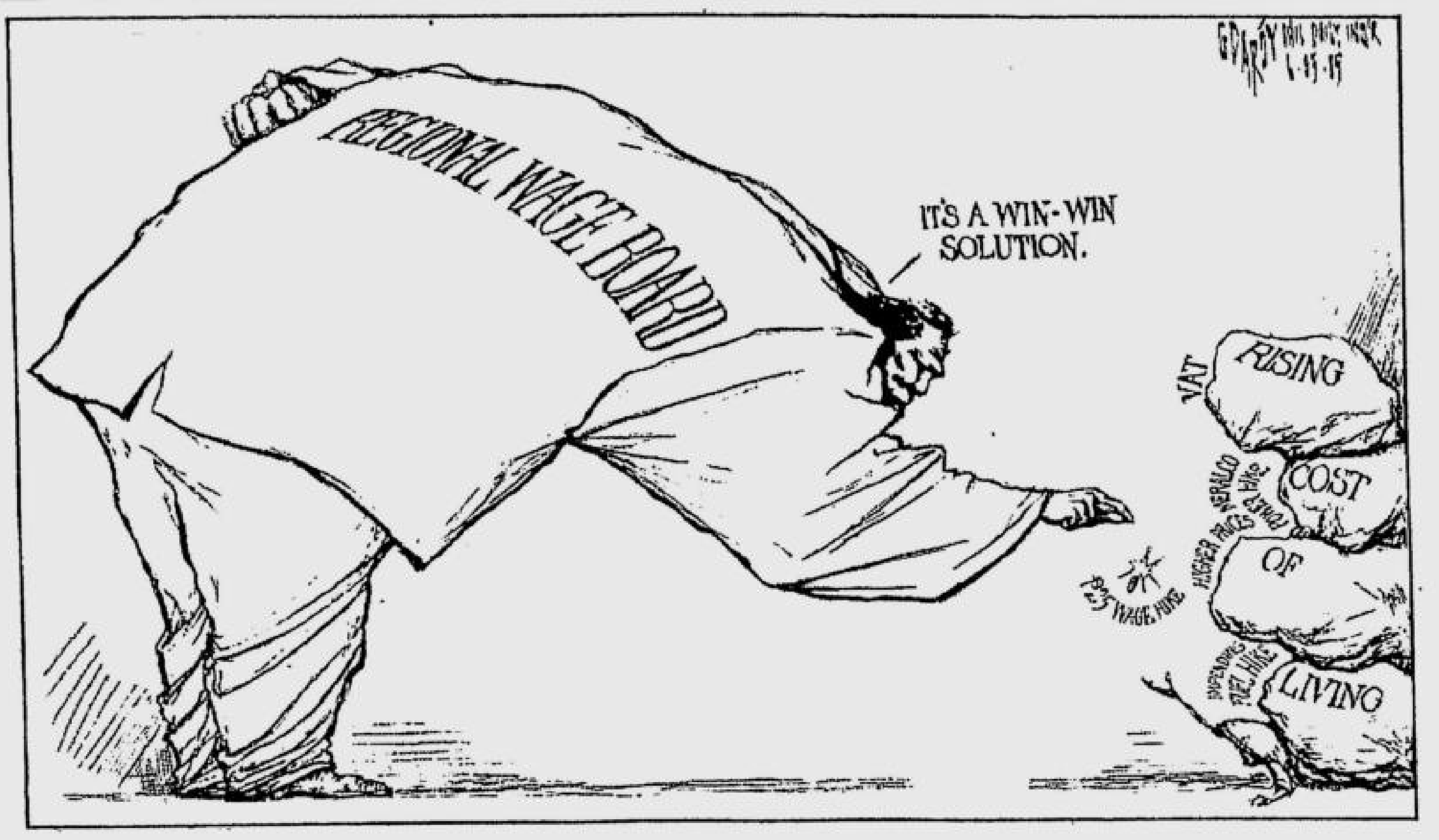
The Sampaguita Family Recreation Center consists of two three-story buildings with 30 air-conditioned rooms each, a bean-shaped swimming pool and a separate rest house for the AFP chief of staff and other senior commanders. It's hard to think how such a complex, with facilities reserved for the top brass, is supposed to raise the morale of over 100,000 soldiers, as some military officials claimed. To accommodate that number, 8,333 soldiers would have to be accommodated every month, or about 277 a day; which means four to five soldiers per room, if all rooms, including those reserved for officers, would be used. And that doesn't include their families who would certainly tag along, since vacations are normally family affairs in these parts. In fact, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, chief of the AFP Central Command, has said, "The hotel is for the morale and rest and recreational needs of ordinary soldiers and their families who can only dream of staying in Boracay." Which means that even with a very a conservative estimate putting the average AFP enlisted man's family at three persons, that complex would have to cater to 300,000 people a year. How the AFP is going to propose to manage that feat, we don't know.

More than this logistical absurdity, the basic issues involved here are the necessity of constructing the complex in Boracay and the propriety of using donations to finance the project. If a rest and recreation complex is so essential, why pick one of the most exclusive—and expensive—pieces of real estate in the country? Military officers have long known of the beauty of the kilometer-long, white sands of Quezon Beach at Igasan, Patikul, next to Jolo, which has the advantage of being near where most of the AFP's hot spots are. There are facilities in Baguio which can be used for the troops. And besides, after having suffered a beating in the media because of the P19-million repair of the sidewalks in Camp Aguinaldo, it would seem obvious that neither the military rank and file nor the public are much interested in the AFP's beautification schemes.

Abu entered into his current, and last, military position with a reputation as a "soldier's soldier," a competent field commander who enjoys good rapport with his troops. And yet he has displayed a combination of a frivolous disregard of fiscal priorities (the tiled sidewalks) and now, a shocking, and inexcusable, ignorance of what's going on under his command (as regards the Boracay boondoggle). He is about to earn the dubious distinction of being the only chief of staff in living memory to end his term (this month) without having been confirmed by Congress. He is adding to it the downright shameful distinction of having architectural follies built, with or without his knowledge, under his watch.

The AFP resort also adds a security headache to the country's less than ideal peace and order situation. As Teodosio himself admitted, they decided to call the resort Sampaguita Family Recreation Center due to security concerns that might arise on the island. Teodosio was quoted in a Palace statement as saying some criminal elements might jump at the opportunity of attacking the soldiers vacation at the resort since they would not be armed. So why is the AFP putting not only its soldiers on leave but also tourists visiting the island in harm's way?

Ill-fed, ill-armed, ill-clothed and spectacularly ill-led, is the general consensus on the AFP. We've called the Sampaguita facility a boondoggle, and that is what it is: a work of little or no value done merely to appear busy, and a project with no purpose other than political patronage. Meanwhile, our soldiers might as well echo the refrain of the soldiers in Bataan during World War II, who bitterly sang, "Our troops go starving on!" There are so very many, better, ways to spend donated money.



Gov't protects foreign cartel at Pinoys' expense

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ERA of protectionism in the Philippines ended when Diosdado Macapagal replaced Carlos P. Garcia as president and abolished the Filipino First policy. The World Trade Organization (WTO) ushered in an even more liberal international trading regime.

Yet the Philippine government still has protectionist policies. And in the cruelest cut of all, these protectionist policies are protecting foreign companies at the expense of Filipino companies.

These foreign companies, which have formed themselves into cartels, have forced many Filipino companies to close shop, throwing hundreds of thousands of Filipino employees out of work. There is practically no more Filipino cement company, in spite of the fact that cement is a basic component needed by the construction industry. A cartel of big international conglomerates has taken over and now dictates the price of local cement.

When cheaper cement from Taiwan and Korea was imported for the hard-pressed construction industry, the Department of Trade and Industry, at the urging of the cartel, imposed a protective tariff on cement imports. What we need is cheaper cement to make homes affordable to Filipinos, but when cheaper cement was coming in, their own government put up the tariff barrier to protect a cartel of foreign companies that are actually exporting their cement at a lower price than what they are charging Filipinos.

The high cost of medicine is practically killing poor Filipinos who cannot afford them, but our own Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) are making it hard for Filipino pharmaceutical companies to manufacture off-patent medicines, thus protecting a cartel of multinational pharmaceutical companies that control 80 percent of the Philippine drug market.

The high cost of most basic commodities, which makes life hard for Filipinos, is the result of the cost of fuel being periodically increased by a cartel of foreign-owned oil companies. That another cartel, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is constantly raising the price of crude oil is only one reason. The bigger reason is that the local cartel is cheating us by raising the prices of refined petroleum products more than the higher crude prices dictate.

The government itself made this possible by passing a defective Oil Deregulation Law, and our own President Fidel Ramos made it worse by shortening the transition period to a ridiculous one month.

Other countries that deregulated their own oil industries had open-ended transition periods to give new companies enough time to compete effectively with the established giants. Here, the new oil firms simply joined the cartel of the Big Three.

Now comes another policy to protect another foreign-owned cartel, the automotive car manufacturers known as Campi (notice the similarity to President Macapagal-Arroyo's own political party Kampi). The President has issued Executive Order 418 that imposes a P500,000 specific tax on each used vehicle import. This is obviously intended to kill the used-vehicle industry at the urging of Campi. Because of the add-on tax, imported used vehicles will now approximate the prices of brand new vehicles being sold by Campi members.

The P500,000 tax applies to all used vehicle imports, including trucks, buses, vans and special purpose vehicles. Hardest hit will be the construction and cargo industries that can afford only second-hand trucks and equipment because not only are the prices of brand new ones sky-high, Campi members are not manufacturing enough of them.

Over the past 35 years, Filipino businessmen, big and small, have relied heavily on used trucks and commercial vehicles in the delivery of cargo all over the archipelago. The tall buildings along Ayala and Ortigas, the North and South Luzon Expressways, dams, bridges, airports, power plants all over the country were built with the support of used imported vehicles and heavy equipment. Our country would be much more backward today had it not been for the efforts of used-vehicle traders.

Now the industry will be killed to protect the car manufacturers, all of which are foreign-owned. To be thrown out of jobs would be 10,000 workers, not counting those employed by downstream industries. All in all, a total of 300,000 individuals would be directly affected by the downfall of the imported used-vehicle industry.

The reason given for the EO is to "mitigate the impact of used motor vehicle trading on air quality and road safety."

If this is the real reason, why is the P500,000 tax slapped only on used-vehicle imports? How about the used motor vehicles manufactured or imported by Campi members? How about the used units being sold by Campi members? Why is the P500,000 tax not being slapped on them?

And why is there no provision on how the proceeds from P500,000 tax will be used for environmental protection? Since there are no details, the fund may just be used for other matters now connected with the environment. What good would the tax do then to the environment? Does it mean that any person who can afford to pay the P500,000 specific tax will now be allowed to use vehicles that will pollute the environment?

It is obvious that EO 418 is using "environmental protection" to hide its true intent, which is to kill the used motor vehicle import industry. Who will benefit from this murder? The cartel of foreign-owned vehicle manufacturers.

What 'Deep Throat' can teach 'jueteng' probers

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"DEEP Throat" was the secret informant of Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, whose reports brought down Richard Nixon, the president of the United States of America. For the next 30 years, long after Nixon's impeachment for the Watergate scandal and even after Nixon's death, Deep Throat's identity remained secret. The other day, the world finally met him. He is W. Mark Felt, former second in command at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and now 91 years old and in failing health after a stroke in 2001.

The whole scandal at first looked just like an ordinary break-in at the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate building in Washington, D.C. Woodward and Bernstein exposed a sinister trail that led to Nixon. Their articles on White House spying triggered off a congressional investigation, a special criminal prosecutor (the legendary Archibald Cox, until he was fired by Nixon's subalterns because he insisted on subpoenaing the smoking-gun documents from the White House), and the now historic impeachment.

Woodward and Bernstein initially would neither confirm nor deny a July magazine article that "outed" Felt as Deep Throat. Until Felt's family members openly confirmed this, both reporters had kept the pledge of confidentiality they made in 1972, a vow so respected that Post publisher and CEO, the late Katharine Graham, never even asked who he was. Bernstein has said: "This is a case history and a case lesson of why it is so important that we have confidential sources. If you were to look back at the original stories...[t]here's no way this reporting could have been done...without anonymous sources."

Felt's disclosure, the "last act, the last unknown fact" of the Watergate story, could not have come at a more difficult moment for the confidentiality of sources. Newsweek magazine has "unequivocally retracted [its] story" on alleged abuse of the Koran at the Guantanamo Bay prisons. Muslims in various countries responded through riots, leading to injuries and deaths, only to find out that the report was false. Newsweek had relied on a "well-placed and historically reliable government source" and checked out the report with senior US defense officials, who did not correct it. Said Newsweek: "[W]e got an important story wrong, and honor requires us to admit our mistake and redouble our efforts to make sure that nothing like this will happen again."

Newsweek's reforms center precisely on the use of anonymous sources, acknowledging that their "overuse can lead to distrust among readers and carelessness among journalists." The magazine said, "From now on, only the...top editors...will have the authority to sign off on the use of anonymous sources," and the burden falls upon the reporter and his editor to show "why a promise of anonymity serves the reader." Newsweek concluded: "The cryptic phrase 'sources said' will never again be the sole attribution of a story in Newsweek."

By these standards, would Deep Throat have made the cut? Just imagine if Katharine Graham and Ben Bradlee, the Post's top guns at the time, had inquired into Deep Throat's credibility and motives. Felt certainly had credibility: he had access to the investigation reports. However, his personal motives were less than noble: he had harbored ambitions to be FBI director but was passed over for a loyalist outsider, though this still wouldn't have tainted the reliability of his leaks. (Still on personal motives, today his decision to come out is expected to yield an equally heroic prize, some $1 million in expected book royalties. His family had earlier asked for a fee from Vanity Fair, the magazine that first came out with the report.)

Watching the congressional hearings on the *jueteng* money trail, we see up close the persistent confusion about whistle-blowers. Pro-GMA senators have questioned the credibility of a self-confessed *jueteng* operator. When Wilfredo Mayor identifies by name the bagmen and their principals, administration legislators say it is hearsay and inadmissible in court.

Given the shadowy world of *jueteng*, our only real sources of information will have to be insiders. Let us not wait for saints and angels to be witnesses; it is enough that Mayor testified with an archbishop at his side. It has taken much courage, and much prodding from Archbishop Oscar Cruz, for him to come out in the open.

Given the money that is at stake, and the slithery chain of racketeers who feed upon *jueteng*, so many people would wish Mayor dead. The more our pro-administration legislators use the law to bar Mayor's testimony, the more they show that the *jueteng* inquiry is best kept away from the courts and kept in the halls of Congress. The more we make it difficult for sinners to confess in public, the more we will have to rely on "anonymous sources," and lose the benefit of legal safeguards for truth and reputations. The more the secretary of justice threatens the witnesses—he whose job it was to find those witnesses—the more the public is convinced that he is trying to protect his principal.

The Watergate scandal showed not the power of the laws on impeachment but the power of the press and of the public opinion that it had shaped. Sure, Nixon was impeached and forced to resign. But Bill Clinton was likewise impeached for having lied about his own Deep Throat experience with Monica Lewinsky, but stayed in office. In both cases, the laws on impeachment had taken their course, but the first led to resignation and the second only to a slap on the wrist. Malacañang must rein in its minions.

(Comments to raulcp@zpdee.net)

Cold comfort

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE NUMBER of business enterprises which think there's "a lot" of corruption in the public sector has increased to 66 percent in 2005 from 60 percent in 2003, according to the Jan. 21-March 15 survey of the Social Weather Stations.

The survey found a big leap in business perception of corruption in the public sector during the administration of President Joseph Estrada—from 63 percent in 2000 to 77 percent in 2001—encompassing a period of corruption scandals highlighted by the exposé on the alleged *jueteng* bribes to Estrada.

The relatively high percentage of perception of corruption during the Estrada administration offers cold comfort to the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo who took office for the first time following the collapse of the Estrada administration with a promise to do much better in terms of governance.

The survey was taken before the current scandal on *jueteng*, in which the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, and their son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, are alleged to have received payoffs from *jueteng* operators. The findings suggest that the administration faces an uphill battle to improve business perception of its governance.

The survey does not allow business companies to take a holier-than-thou attitude, reflected by the findings that in 2005, only 10 percent of managers said there was "a lot" of corruption in the private sector, while the figure was 14 percent in 2000, 9 percent in 2001, 13 percent in 2003 and 9 percent in 2004.

A larger percentage (48) admit there was "a little" corruption in the private sector. But the survey does not give an idea what the business managers mean by "a little" corruption. Does not mean big or small bribes to do business?

The survey found that 54 percent of managers allotted 15 percent—of what, it is not clear, presumably net income—for bribes to grease business transactions.

Whatever the median allotment, bribery exacts economic costs that are passed on to consumers of good and services produced by companies, illustrating the World Bank's campaign for good governance in developing countries on the grounds that corruption hits the poor.

Revealing and unsettling is the finding that significant numbers of managers say their companies were asked for bribes in relation to getting local government and national government permits and licenses, paying income taxes, complying with import regulations, collecting receivables from the government, supplying the government with goods or services, and availing of government incentives. And it is dismaying to know that only 8 percent of businesses from which bribes were solicited reported the solicitation to any public or private anti-corruption group.

Aside from the 8 percent that were inclined toward whistle-blowing, the rest cited the following reasons for their reluctance to report: 60 percent said "nothing would be done anyway"; 46 percent said "they couldn't prove it; 43 percent said it was "standard practice"; and 43 percent said they were "afraid of reprisal."

Some consider it heartening that, according to the survey in five metropolitan areas, businessmen were willing to donate an average of 5 percent of their net profits to an anticorruption campaign. Metro Manila businessmen were ready to donate an average of 3 percent of net profits, larger than the one percent they were willing to pay in 2000.

Of the 26 government agencies rated in the 2005 survey for "sincerity" in fighting corruption, only two obtained net sincerity (percentage sincere minus percentage insincere) scores of above +50 or Very Good. These are the Securities and Exchange Commission (+55) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (+52). Their scores are higher than those of the Supreme Court (+48), Department of Health (+40) and barangay government (+31).

On the other side of the scale, the agencies that got negative ratings are: the Bureau of Customs (-75), Department of Public Works and Highway (-66), and the Bureau of.Internal Revenue (-59). Scores lower than -50 are classified as Very Bad.

Scores between -31 and -50, classified as Bad, were received by the Land Transportation Office (-45), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (-44), Philippine National Police (-42) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (-38 percent).

City and municipal governments, the Department of Budget Management, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan, Department of Justice and Department of Education received scores between +11 and +30 percent, classified as Moderate. The Senate, Department of Interior and Local Government, and the House of Representatives received scores of between -11 and -30. The Office of the President, Commission of Audit, Presidential Commission on Good Government, trial courts, and the Presidential Anti-graft Commission received scores of between +10 and -10, classified as Mediocre.

Most of the sincerity scores were down in 2005. Of the 24 institutions rated in 2004, only city/municipal governments got higher (more positive) scores, and only the Senate, House of Representatives, PNP and LTO did not score lower than before.

Business folk and macho men

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF THE NAME of this affair was 'How to Make More Money,' I am sure that even if we were in the ballroom, it would be full," business consultant Peter Wallace remarked during yesterday's forum on "The Population Problem: Why Businessmen Should Be Concerned."

Sponsored by The Forum for Family Planning and Development Inc. (FFPD), the lunch affair was meant to update business folk on the findings of the latest (2003) National Demographic and Health Survey and what impact these have on individual firms and on the business community as a whole.

And yet, despite inviting "almost a hundred" executives, the organizers, said Wallace, received just over 30 confirmations, which made it possible to hold the forum in the intimate confines of the Le Boulevardier at the Intercon. A major obstacle in getting the business community more involved in reproductive health advocacy is that "some employers think reproductive health is not connected at all to the profitability of their businesses." But as Wallace pointed out: "A good family planning program among your employees can mean better business all around."

Part of the NDHS, as well as a study by a team of professors at the UP School of Economics have documented the economic and social impact of family planning programs in the workplace. Without a good system of family planning counseling and services, a company is vulnerable to "a high rate of employee turnover, absenteeism, increased health costs, accidents and waste, increasing expenses for recruitment and training, low productivity, and high maternal and infant mortality" among the employees and their families.

But when family planning and other reproductive health services are made available to workers, a company can expect "greater productivity, reduced absenteeism and tardiness, lower employee turnover, lower health costs."

* * *

AS WALLACE put it: "In the end, this forum indeed also helps you make more money, and helps the Philippines as well."

Seventy-six percent of the country's workforce—a total of 33 million men and women—are in their prime reproductive years. Time and productivity lost to pregnancy, maternity and paternity leaves, as well as parental duties are matters of major concern to employers.

The 2003 NDHS found that two-thirds of women in the workforce already have children—2.7 on the average. Two-thirds of employed women also said they no longer want to have children, but of these women who no longer want to get pregnant, 38 percent are not using any method of family planning.

Surprising—because the law is 30 years old—is the finding that many heads of businesses with 200 or more employees are still not aware that they are required to establish family welfare programs in their workplaces. For those businesses who may need help establishing such programs or who want to improve the range and quality of their services, the FFPD is offering to partner with them in gaining access to information materials and data, training of speakers and counselors, and even linking up with other health-care providers, like FriendlyCare Foundation, that can service their employees if they feel they are not up to setting up their own clinics.

There's another reason business should get involved in population. Stabilizing population growth, paired with more enlightened economic policies and curbing graft and corruption, would almost certainly result in a stable economy. And a stable economy could in turn lead to a larger consumer base with higher purchasing power. That's more than enough motivation, I think, for business to make population its business.

* * *

ONE of the more popular participants at the forum was Dr. Ed Gatchalian, speaking in behalf of the Philippine College of Surgeons, which has adopted as its major project the provision of free, non-scalpel vasectomies as well as free training and orientation on the procedure. His offer was met with a lot of excitement, as the businessmen expressed interest in availing of their expertise, at no or very little cost.

As discussed in an earlier column on the PCS project, non-scalpel vasectomy is a cheap, simple, safe and effective procedure of sterilization. As its name implies, no surgery or the use of a scalpel is involved, since the vas (the tube that transports sperm) is merely hooked out from under the skin and then cut and tied. Surgeons say they vastly prefer NSV to a tubal ligation, the equivalent procedure in women, because a ligation is much more expensive and complicated. By contrast, an NSV can be performed in just 10 minutes with the use of local anesthesia and a Band-Aid to cover the puncture.

* * *

THE TROUBLE lies not with the procedure itself, but with finding enough men willing to undergo the procedure. Many men believe a vasectomy can cause them to lose their virility or ability to achieve an erection, or even prevent them from doing work that requires physical exertion.

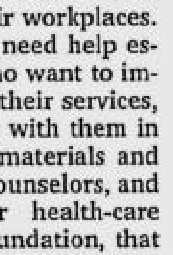
Even educated and "liberated" men are not free from such fears, I have found out. Once, I was talking with some men friends and tried to convince them to undergo NSV, disabusing them of fears about losing their virility or sex drive. When they asked about "the pain," I assured them "there's no cutting involved, the vas is just hooked." At the mention of "hooked," my macho friends blanched. "Just the mere thought of any sharp instrument in the vicinity of my groin gives me the creeps!" said an otherwise manly friend.

"You men are such wimps!" I chided. "Don't you know what amount of pain your wives endure when they give birth and afterwards?"

Indeed, it takes a real man to undergo a vasectomy.

Two on the National Anthem

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

DON'T be bored by all the columns on the flag and the National Anthem, this will be the last—at least for a few months. Based on e-mail response to the different ways the anthem is sung these days, we hope to standardize it by the end of the year to guide everyone on the proper and respectful way of singing it.

Let me share two e-mail comments that provide different views on the subject. From Rolf Campo:

"I read your column about the right way to sing the National Anthem. I am impressed with your knowledge about our National Anthem. As I read your column, I have a notion that the particular arrangement that you are describing is the beautiful arrangement of the late Prof. Lucio D. San Pedro. I was able to play it when I was still in the symphony orchestra and concert band. I also heard it probably from the UP Concert Chorus, the Madrigal Singers and, as you said, the choral group of Mr. Joel Navarro for the sign on and sign off of a particular TV station.

"Well for me, despite what you stated as against the flag and herald code, I found the arrangement very nice and inspiring. As a musician, whenever I hear and play that arrangement, I have goose bumps because of its calm and slow start that eventually change[s] to higher key and culminates in a very triumphant ending. It might not be the standard way of singing the National Anthem but we have to appreciate the effort of our fellow Filipinos to show and demonstrate in any way they sing or play. For me the effort of a person to contribute to enhance any of our patriotic hymns not only the anthem is a commendable effort.

"We might have different perspectives on these matter but for me as a Filipino and one who appreciates music, the contribution made by the composer is laudable enough and deserving of praise. The version for me is intended to enhance our National Anthem but I think the composer and the singer have no intention of desecrating it."

Jonathan Velasco, conductor of the Ateneo Chamber Singers, commented on the San Pedro arrangement:

"San Pedro's arrangement start[s] slow, almost prayer-like, then repeats from the beginning with the brisk tempo, albeit in a key that is only singable for a choir. I believe this is also the arrangement behind the solo singer that you heard in the mall.

"Before this 're-arrangement,' the popular choral version was the Madrigal Singers'. This arrangement starts in the key of F (first note fa), and is totally in unison (no division into soprano-alto-tenor-bass) until *'kailan pa ma'y di magdidilim.'* Then in the next line, *'Lupa ng araw, ng luwalhati't pagsinta,'* all the way until the end, the chorus bursts forth into four parts, and, combined with the change in key (built in by the composer, and which I consider brilliant) to B flat, is enough to make hair stand on end. And all of these WITHOUT any change in tempo. The Madrigal arrangement in F major was easier to sing, because the highest note (*Bu in 'Buhay'* and *Ang* in the line *'Ang mamatay'*) is only E flat, which is easily reached by anyone. On the other hand, the "official" key of G major, in the new arrangement by Ed Nepomuceno, has the highest note F, which is a little bit straining for ordinary folks. It also has no change in tempo.

"In all my workshops for choral conductors here in the country, I emphasize that, although the official key is G major, it will be better for all concerned if they sing it in F major. Because, I said, 'Nobody from the DepEd is bringing a tuning fork every time you sing the National Anthem anyway.' As long as everybody can sing it in a very comfortable key (not very high and not very low), then all is well."

I e-mailed and asked whether it was a good idea to have various recording artists sing the anthem and get young people to appreciate the anthem in their times and idiom. Velasco replied:

"If they do the arrangements like the one done by San Pedro, then I think it will be detrimental rather than helpful. The young 'uns will certainly take notice, but then they take notice of anything new and controversial anyway. Wouldn't it be enough to get the artists and let them sing the anthem in a key easily sung by Juan de la Cruz? Like my proposed F major. No frills, no scatting, no Grace Nono-esque wailing. Just good, patriotic singing. I think the presence of the artists is enough so people will take notice.

"And you're right. It's more important that people can sing it, rather than be official and have a hard time reaching for the high notes. By the way, the official key of the United States anthem has also a high note of F (...of the freeeeee...), although I don't know how much they follow their official version.

"If it were up to me, I'd make it official at F major. After all, the present key of G major is also not original, since it was formerly in C major, then they changed it to G major I think in the 1950s. Now we have a key that is too high. I wonder what they were thinking about, putting it in G major. Well, if they can change it to G major, we can always change it to F major. *Sabihin na lang natin na* overall, *bumaba na ang boses ni* Juan de la Cruz *sa sobrang sigarilyo.*"

On that high note we leave the issue temporarily.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The naked truth

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SMART-ASS kids, I thought when I saw the front-page photo in another newspaper. "Naked truth," the caption read, referring to a rally at the Chino Roces (Mendiola) bridge where 15 young males ran naked around the University Belt.

A spokesman of Alyansa ng Nagkakaisang Lakas ng Kabataan, which organized the University Belt(less) run, explained that the protest action was meant to "symbolize the naked truth on the difficult education in the country due to poor investment resulting in 13.4 million out-of-school youths."

From the statement, you can see why we should protest the state of the educational system.

Seriously, the protest clearly takes off from the University of the Philippines' annual Oblation Run started many years ago originally as a protest against censorship during the Marcos dictatorship. If memory serves me right, that was also a time when, in the West, there was a streaking fad, streakers being people who'd suddenly pop out of nowhere and make a mad dash, while stripping down, through an area with many people.

The Oblation Run was a modification, using the Western streaking fad but also using UP's famous (or infamous) Oblation statue, minus the leaf, as a role model. Frat neophytes volunteered (I think) to streak as part of their initiation and all for a good cause, meaning publicizing burning issues of the day. A few years back the naked UP fratmen ended their run by forming a line in front of Palma Hall, baring their backs and butts to spell "ERAP RESIGN."

Shock and awe

In this age of saturated mass media, it's become more and more difficult to launch advocacy and political action events. Catching the public's attention requires a strategic combination of timing with eye-catching visuals and ear-catching sound bytes.

The animal rights group Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is well known for using skin-baring shock (and maybe awe) tactics to grab the public's attention. To protest the slaughter of animals for fur, they've had celebrities (and non-celebrities) parading naked with signs, "I'd rather go naked than wear fur." Actress Pamela Anderson pose for a poster that read, "Give fur the cold shoulder," showing off her shoulder and more. A local Peta poster has model Raya Mananquil, wearing little more than angel wings while cuddling a cute little piglet, urging people: "Earn your wings. Go vegetarian."

The student activists' bare run was meant to shock, but also drew on an interesting metaphor of baring the truth. The metaphor's actually more Western, this idea of disclosure, sometimes described as baring one's soul to bring out the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth—naked that is.

The word "naked" shocks because it is so bold. Motion adds to the shock value of Oblation-like runs, birds flying in the air, and I'm being metaphorical. With the University Belt run, there was an interesting use of non-motion. According to one newspaper report, at one point the protesters "lay down on the scorching road, some spreading their legs, before a throng of photographers and TV cameramen." A photograph in a local Chinese paper, World News, captured that moment of self-sacrifice, some protesters face down, others face up. Goodness, hot buns and hot dogs.

'Hubad, hubo'

I've wondered at how effective these skin-blitzkreig tactics might be. Language reflects the way we think and really, we don't actually think of truth as having to be bared. The University Belt protesters used the Tagalog "*hubad na katotohanan,*" a literal translation of the English "naked truth." But "*hubad na katotohanan*" doesn't have the impact that the English term has. I hear the word and I think of *lumpiang hubad.* Now you'd need a pretty wild imagination to think of a naked spring roll as phallically erotic. Maybe, albeit tiny, the *lumpia shanghai* but not a naked *lumpia.*

We're more nonchalant about nakedness maybe because in a tropical country like the Philippines, bared skin is pretty common, especially with men, who have no qualms about walking around half-naked in broad daylight. Think of a typical Pinoy and you see a pot-bellied man standing on the corner in short pants and *sando*, pulled up of course as he scratches away at his blubber.

It's intriguing how in Tagalog we differentiate *hubad* and *hubo*. *Hubad* is undressed from the waist up so more accurately, "*hubad na katotohanan*" is "shirtless truth." *Hubo,* on the other hand, is undressed from the waist down. Mang Ambo, standing on the street corner scratching his belly, is technically *hubad* since he has his pants on, about as sexy as the *lumpiang hubad.*

So, why not "*hubong katotohanan*"? Truth without pants? It falls flat, too.

Emperors and empresses

But we shouldn't abandon the metaphors around truth and nakedness. Remember the story of the vain emperor who paraded around convinced he had the finest new clothes when in fact he was completely naked? Apparently, his sycophantic advisers were able to convince him he had special clothes and if the public could not appreciate the finery, it was because they were, well, not smart enough.

In many ways, we have a government with our own emperors and empresses. They don't exactly walk around naked; instead, they deck themselves in the finest tailored statistics. All's well, they tell themselves and us, citing the "strong" peso. All's well, they tell themselves and us, pointing to statistics of *jueteng*-free districts: Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Northern Luzon...goodness, the entire country is now *jueteng*-free. All's well, they tell themselves and us, poverty levels are rapidly dropping. I've lost track but two years ago it was something like 38 percent and the latest figures are about 26 percent.

Can people tell what the naked truth is? Maybe not as well when it comes to macroeconomics, for example, about how speculative investments in our casino stockmarket have artificially boosted the peso or about the Asian Development Bank's warning our government against "poverty reduction through statistics."

But people do know about their shrinking pay checks and how thousand-peso bills rapidly disappear with each visit to the grocery, gas station, pharmacy...and these days, schools. Sure, tuition's free in public schools but it's amazing how much "extra fees" add up to.

People know, too, of the friendly neighborhood *jueteng kubrador* and of the cop on the take from drug dealers. If the public doesn't seem as interested in the congressional hearings these days, it's because they've always known about the corruption...and have lost faith in having anything come out of those hearings.

So maybe the naked runs serve some purpose. In a way, the smart-ass kids are like the innocently honest children who dared to shout, as the emperor strutted around, "He's naked! He's naked!" *Hubad na, hubo pa,* Shame, shame!

Ghosts of martial law

I WASN'T born yet when martial law was declared in 1972. I was seven years old when "People Power" restored democracy in the country.

Having been raised in a typical Filipino family, unmindful of social issues and concerned only with the struggle to survive from day to day, I may not draw attention from human rights activists if I speak of human rights and martial law. But I'll rather take chances than not try at all.

Though with only two years or so of human rights work, I have had first-hand experience in dealing with victims (and their families) of "salvaging," torture and illegal arrest and detention. And this experience has convinced me that my country has yet to overcome the ghosts and horrors of martial law.

The unrestrained killing, torture and illegal arrest and detention of political and human rights activists and journalists, as well as the resurgence of armed fanatics reportedly sowing anti-Muslim sentiment in the South, are exactly the same phenomenon the country went through in the late '70s and early '80s.

Although the government has done something to address the killing of journalists, unfortunately it has not done enough with respect to the killing of political and human rights activists. The killing of activists and members of the opposition was one of the major, horrifying martial law features. Notably, since early March this year, the Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission has already reported the killing of six activists.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

I was not in Edsa in 1986. I wasn't born during martial law. I was raised in a family reluctant to discuss social issues. But my encounter with the victims of "salvaging," torture and illegal arrest and detention has convinced me that we haven't overcome the ghosts of martial law and that we're sliding back to that regime.

Something must be done.

—DANILO A. REYES,
intern,
Asian Human Rights Commission
(AHRC), danilo@ahrchk.net

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Rehashed issues

CONRAD de Quiros, in his May 24 column "All-out war," chose to write about rehashed issues that have been debunked on numerous occasions in the past.

Contrary to his claim, the Jose Pidal exposé is in the hands of the Senate blue ribbon committee which is currently headed by Sen. Joker Arroyo. As of this writing, the committee has yet to produce a report on the matter.

On the other hand, insinuations about my alleged unexplained wealth have been discussed at great length, and the issue has come to symbolize nothing but perennial calumny best resorted to by amateurish reportage.

Lastly, thank you for the usual attention to this letter. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss my side of the story.

—SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON,
Senate,
Rm. 523, GSIS Financial Center,
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City

Boracay should be kept public domain

I AM wondering why the government should be giving individuals titles to parcels of lands in Boracay if the island is, by law, a public domain, which should therefore remain in the hands and protection of the sovereign. Giving away land titles might just be a source of dispute and corruption, which would only make the problem worse. The government should maintain its ownership over the island and lease it to good developers. In this manner, it can set conditions on how to develop the property and immediately rescind a contract if there is a violation of its terms and conditions. With land titles in the hands of individuals, it will be difficult for the government to control an act of ownership by an owner, even if it will harm the island. Political will, not hidden agenda, is the best measure to save the precious island.

—MARK ANTHONY BAYQUEN,
421 Gabriel St., Quirino Ave.
Parañaque City

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29V-FL350S
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Bottom Speakers 21"
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Bottom Speakers 21"
21V-FP909(GY)
EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

GSIS e-card not tied to relative in Union Bank

WE write in reaction to the editorial titled "Ethically challenged" (PDI, 5/9/05), specifically with regard to the allegation that GSIS president Winston Garcia signed a "flawed billion peso e-card contract with Union Bank, some of whose officers are said to be his relatives."

We strongly disagree with the misinformed and erroneous statement for the following reasons:

(1) There is no relative of Winston Garcia employed in Union Bank either as officer or employee, be it on regular or contractual basis.

(2) The GSIS e-card contract with Union Bank was executed in compliance with law.

We therefore maintain that the GSIS e-card contract is regular and valid.

This letter is necessitated by the need to set the record straight and to clear the cloud of doubt unfairly cast on the e-card contract.

—EDWIN R. BAUTISTA,
executive vice president,
Union Bank of the Philippines,
SSS (Makati) Building, Ayala Ave. cor.
V.A. Rufino St., Makati City

NSO accessible 24/7

IN THE MAY 18, 2005 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Michael L. Tan stated in his column, titled "Four-day work week," that his friend was not able to get a copy of his birth certificate from our office on a Friday, when many government offices were closed under the "four-day work week scheme."

We wish to inform the public that while most government offices indeed closed down in compliance with Administrative Order 117 dated March 28, 2005, the National Statistics Office opted to stay open on Fridays in the interest of public service. We announced this in several radio and TV appearances. However, we respected the decision of the local governments of Caloocan, Muntinlupa and Pasig, which host three of our Metro Manila outlets, to observe the four-day work week.

Our office has already achieved nationwide service capability since 2003 through the NSO-Civil Registry System Information Technology Project (NSO-CRS ITP). We now have 40 Census Serbilis Centers, six in Manila and 34 others, strategically located in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, that are online and offer the full range of civil registry services. With this development, our frontline services have been decentralized and brought closer to our clients. Thus, our transaction volume of about 26,000 requests daily on the average has been distributed.

Also, in March 2001, we launched e-Census (www.e-Census.com.ph) as an alternative online channel for availing civil registry services. This is the Web component of the NSO-CRS ITP. Requests submitted via the e-Census website are processed after confirmation of payment in accredited banks. Results are delivered door-to-door to the address indicated by the client upon online submission of application. Even prior to our computerization project and the influx of call centers, requests for copies of birth, marriage and death certificates have been just a phone call away via 737-1111, also known as NSO Helpline Plus. These alternative channels offer their services 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

We believe that Tan's friend actually did not attempt "to drop by the Census Office" to secure a copy of his birth certificate for the purpose of securing his passport. Otherwise, his urgent need could have been attended to and served by our frontline service staff. Tan's friend should have at least tried calling my office in Sta. Mesa or visited the nearest one in his area; then, he could have been given advice on the alternative courses of action he could have taken to be able to avail of our services.

Thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to present our side of the issue and to share with you the good news on the major milestones in NSO's public service delivery.

—CARMELITA N. ERICTA,
administrator and civil registrar general,
National Statistics Office

Tuition fee increases

ON THE EDITORIAL "Higher-education lows" (PDI, 5/15/05), the INQUIRER didn't include more of the "bad news." How about the tuition fee increases? Is there any government body that can control these? (We all know the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education can't do it.) We are all sick and tired of the same problems that haunt us and our educational system year after year.

—RICCI SANTIAGO, riccisantiago@gmail.com

Philamlife Scholar Benefits are 100% Guaranteed

All Philamlife education scholars are assured of getting their benefits at the time when they are scheduled to utilize them.

This "100% Guarantee" stems from the fact that Philamlife's education insurance products are "Fixed-Value" in nature, meaning that Philamlife will pay exactly the amount of maturity benefits that the policyholder has purchased at exactly the time that is specified in the policy.

This means that, unlike other pre-need companies that offer "Traditional or Open-Ended Plans", Philamlife's education benefits are not affected by any amount of tuition fee increases, or any of the other problems associated with traditional pre-need plans.

Solid Track Record in Education Insurance

Philamlife launched its first education insurance product, called "Philamlife Scholar" in December 1985. Since then, it has continuously enhanced its products to meet the changing needs of the market. Scholar Plus was launched in 1990 and featured a short 5-year paying period. Scholar Gold followed in 1993 with improved features and benefits. International Scholar, the company's first dollar-denominated education product, was launched in 2001.

Over P1B in Benefits Paid

Philamlife, the country's No. 1 life insurance company, earlier disclosed that total payments to Philamlife scholars from 2000-2005 will reach P1.019 Billion when this year's first batch of education benefits is released to policyholders this May. A total of P165 Million in Philamlife education benefits is currently being released through its network of 100 branch offices nationwide.

Timely Release of Benefits

Philamlife education benefits are intended for the tuition and other enrollment expenses of the scholars covered by Philamlife's various education insurance products, mainly Scholar Gold Prime and Advantage and other Scholar Gold products. The timely release of these benefits will allow parents to enroll their children for school year 2005-06.

Excellent Management of Funds

Philamlife only sells "fixed-value" education products. These products peg the promised payment to a specific pre-computed amount, and are thus more viable and easily managed. With fixed-value plans, a company knows exactly how much its obligations will be at a certain point in time, and can thus manage its trust funds more effectively.

Local Leader with Global Strength

Philamlife is the leading and most diversified life insurance company in the country. Its comprehensive range of life insurance products answers the various financial needs of its customers at different points in their life, e.g., education, protection, health and retirement. Philamlife insurance policies help Filipino families enjoy a secu and prosperous financial future. is a member company of America International Group, Inc. (AIG the world's leading internationa insurance and financial service organization.

Philamlife Scholars will b notified through the loca branch where they can clai their checks. Philamlife Agen can also assist policy owners i getting these benefits.

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BILLIONS IN BENEFITS RELEASED. At Philamlife, we have always kept our promises. That's why we have consistently paid full benefits to our policy holders at the moment of their need. In fact, we paid close to P20 Billion in benefits in the last six years alone.

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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. Consumers have voted Philamlife as Reader's Digest's "Platinum SuperBrand" for two consecutive years - the only life insurance company that has been given such international recognition. One of the criteria for a SuperBrand is "trustworthiness". We are deeply honored by this vote of confidence from our customers.

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Militants denounce general for saying deaths are sacrifices

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A leader of a militant group yesterday condemned Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for declaring that the deaths of civilians and local leaders brought about by the military's insurgency campaign in Eastern Visayas were "small sacrifices."

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said Palparan's assertion could be used as evidence in the allegations that he was involved in the "rash of human rights violations" in Eastern Visayas.

"His statement that the rampant killings happening now in the region are but small sacrifices is a clear admission of his culpability to the rash of human rights violations in the region," he said.

Palparan, chief of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, had told a House defense committee hearing on Tuesday that "the enemy (was) everywhere on Samar Island" as about 50 to 60 percent of the population in Samar sympathized with the New People's Army (NPA), which he claimed to have infiltrated local government units and even the military.

He said that compared to the number of people attacked by insurgents, the death of civilians and local officials as a result of the anti-insurgency campaign on the island were "small sacrifices."

He, however, claimed that the number of local officials and civilians killed before he was assigned to Samar was greater than the number of those killed under his watch.

Palparan, however, denied that he personally approved the killings and other human rights violations.

"As far as the people of Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon and the whole country, he (Palparan) is the enemy," said Ramos.

OUT OF THIS WORLD
A gasoline attendant dressed as Darth Vader from Star Wars greets customers in Baguio City.
REUTERS

Cops vow bankruptcy for gambling lords

DAVAO CITY—Police authorities in Southern Mindanao would be zeroing in on collectors of the illegal numbers game Last Two Digits.

However, Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Southern Mindanao police chief, said it does not mean they would not arrest identified financiers anymore.

"That is my instruction to my men. They should continue arresting Last Two collectors," Billones said.

He said the strategy was aimed at driving financiers into bankruptcy.

Billones said because their collectors are being arrested, financiers post bail and they would soon run out of money to operate their illegal business.

"If they run out of money, our problem on illegal gambling would soon be over," he said.

Billones said he was optimistic that the arrest of collectors would also lead to the arrest of financiers.

"Eventually, they would identify who their financiers are," he said.

Billones said the arrest of bet collectors would be sustained as part of the intensified campaign against illegal gambling.

He said the police would also try to find out whether or not some public and police officials act as protectors of Last Two Digits.

The illegal numbers game, which is very popular in many parts of Mindanao, is based on the last digits of the last two balls drawn in the government-sponsored lotto.

Sometimes, the winning numbers are based on the last digits of the 6-digit game of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Financiers give different winnings but majority of them would give P700 for every P10 play.

In Davao Oriental, provincial police director Senior Supt. Bienvenido Latag was relieved from his post, days after he accused journalists of conniving with gambling lords in the province.

Latag declined to comment on the relief order signed by National Police Director Gen. Arturo Lomibao.

The 11 police chiefs of the province only knew about his relief on Tuesday.

"No one knew about it, not even provincial government officials," Senior Insp. Benedicto Faco, Mati police chief, said.

Faco said the police chiefs even failed to witness the turn-over of command to the incoming provincial director.

Latag only served for more than two months, being installed only on March 17.

Supt. Caesar Azares, the newly installed provincial police director, said the relief order should not come as a surprise because officers can be transferred anytime.

"We do not stay long in our posts," he said.

Raul Antipuesto, president of the Davao Oriental Tri-Media Association, welcomed Latag's relief.

Anthony Allada and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Electric service in these areas will be momentarily interrupted for facilities and other line work:

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, JUNE 6-7, 2005
MANILA (ERMITA, MALATE AND PACO)
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 06/06/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 06/07/05) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 45B – MALATE 45J
Portion of Zobel, San Marcelino, Gen. Luna and Josefa Llanes Escoda Sts. from Meralco-Tegen substation to near F. Tirona Benitez St. (Kansas St.) including Technological University of the Philippines – Manila, Adamson University – Cardinal Santos & St. Therese Bldgs., Garden Plaza Hotel, Swiss Inn and Manila Prince Hotel in Ermita and Paco.
Portion of Leon Guinto Sr., San Andres and F. Tirona Benitez Sts. from Meralco – Malate substation to near Julio Nakpil St. (Vermont St.) including Foundation for Professional Training, Manila Steam Laundry and Marcaval Aqua Agro in Malate.
BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 06/06/05) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 06/07/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 45B – MALATE 45J
Along F. Tirona Benitez St. (Kansas St.) from near Josefa Llanes Escoda St. to near Julio Nakpil St. (Vermont St.) including Petron gas station and Dy International Bldg. in Malate.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Tirona Benitez St. (Kansas St.) in Malate, Manila

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2005
CALOOCAN CITY
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT GRACE PARK 415RD
Portion of Dimasalang St. from A. Mabini St. to and including Kapanalig, Kanlaon Broadcasting System, Xuan Phil. Corp., Marcela, San Diego, P. Castillo, Perpetua, Laong Laan, Purificasyon, C. Martinez, Socorro and J. Lerma Sts. in Maypajo.
REASON: Reconstruction work along J. Lerma St. in Maypajo, Caloocan City

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2005
QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)
BETWEEN 7:30AM AND 3:30PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT KAYBIGA 423YX AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS BALINTAWAK 45E – KAYBIGA 46YX, AND KAYBIGA 422YX
Along P. Dela Cruz St. and Diamond St. from Maries 1 Village to Quirino Highway including Doña Tomasa Subd., Maharlika Textile, Piñakamasarap Inc., Holy Steel Mfg., Care Products, Valley Pulp and Paper Mills, California Village, Doña Faustina Subd., 1st El Presidente Mfg., Sikatuna Country Homes, Ramirez Subd., Green Acres Village, Northwind Village, Acme-Ramos Cpd., ACF Homes, IA Jan Homes, Greenheights – Q. C. Subd., R. T. Gonzales Subd., Odelco Subd., Cathay Metal, Falcon Metal, Pacific Metal, Rizal Memorial Park, Acme Knitting, Relucio Foundry, Neo Steel, Novaliches Health Ctr. and Gold River Mill in Bgy. San Bartolome
REASON: Various maintenance work along P. Dela Cruz St. in Bgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City.
CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS)
BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DASMARIÑAS 40DA
Portion of Gen. E Aguinaldo Highway from Transco – Dasmariñas substation to near Salitran – Salawag Road including Bgy. Salitran, Agustina Subd. and Petron gas station.
BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DASMARIÑAS 40DA
Along Pasong Lawin Road from Aguinaldo Highway to DBB Highway (Congressional Road) including De La Salle University, Villa Nicasia and Pasong Lawin Compound.
Along Congressional North Road and Congressional South Road from Bgy. Burol to and including Phil. Interfashion Compound, Modas Intl., South Charbel, Windward Subd., Town & Country Subd., Sta. Maria, San Antonio de Padua, Area E, Fatima 1 & 3, Umakap Ka Cpd., Clusters A & N, De La Salle University – Aguinaldo, 7-11, Bgy. Sta. Fe and Meridian Garments
REASON: Line rehabilitation work along Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. in Dasmariñas, Cavite.
RIZAL (MORONG AND BARAS)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 12:00NN – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALAYA 44MM
Portion of F. Claudio and J. P. Rizal Sts. from Raymundo St. (Lagundi) in Bgy. Caniogan, Morong to and including Alejo St. and Magsaysay Blvd. in Baras Town Proper, and Santiago St. in Bgy. Santiago, Baras.
Portion of Raymundo, V. Javier, Feliciano, Javier and Kaytago Sts. from F. Claudio St. to and including Kaytago St., Pulong Kumunoy Elementary School, Pugala and Pinugay Roads in Bgys. Caniogan and Lagundi, Morong.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work of Special Voltage Transformer along Trabaho St. in Bgy. Santiago, Baras, Rizal.
BULACAN
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAPANG PALAY 32YO AND 33YO
Bgys. Aniban, Minuyan, Paltok, San Mateo, Sto. Niño, San Martin, Sto Cristo, Mardeka Marble, Minuyan Marble, Richmark Foods, Mariane Homes, Guillen Marble, Friendship Village, Carissa Homes 1B & 2B, Palmera Northwinds, Northridge Royale Subd. in San Jose del Monte; Bgys. Bigte, Tigbe, Bitungol in Norzagaray; and Bgy. San Rafael in Sta. Maria.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Sapang Palay substation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005
BULACAN
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAN MIGUEL 301YN, 35YN, 34YN AND 33YN.
Bgys. San Agustin, Batasan Matanda, Batasan A, Batasan B, Salapungan, Magumbali, Lourdez, Mandili, Cauayang Bugtong, Tagulod, Mandile, Barangca, Mapanique, Salangan, Canlang, Anatan, Makapilapil, Sta. Catalina Matanda, Sta. Catalina Bata, Nabaong Carlan, Mataas na Parang, San Juan, Sapang Putol, Pinaod, Sumandig, Pala-pala, Gabihan, Talen, Baguil, Sapang Dayap, Basuit, Sapang Putik, Akle, Casalat, Palanas, Narra, Alagao and Laog in San Ildefonso
Portion of Cagayan Valley Road from Meralco – San Miguel substation to and including Bgys. Buliallo, Taguis, Sacdalan, Bantog, Pasong Manga, Baluarte, Pulang Buli, Bagong Pagasa, Salakot, Kawayang Bugtong, Saklot, Cambio, King Kabayo, Kinamatayang Kabayo, Pinambaran, Mandile, Bagong Silang, Mayantoc, Kamias, Cablo, Sta. Lucia, Buliran, Partida, Balukok, Balaong, Malibay, Catapacan Hills, Calumpang, Buliban, Tartaro, Masalipit, Sibul, Madlum and Balite in San Miguel.
Along Pres. Magsaysay Road from Meralco – San Miguel substation to and including Bgys. Biak-Na-Bato, Muzon, Pakalag, Pulong Bayabas, Balaong, Masalipit, Tibagan, Libangan, San Vicente, San Jose, Labne and Sta. Rita in San Miguel.
REASON: Transco maintenance work inside Cruz Na Daan substation

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2005
QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES) AND CALOOCAN CITY – NORTH
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 42YJ
Along Zabarte Ave. and Camarin Road from Meralco – Novaliches substation to near Langit Road including Bagong Silang High School, Camarin High School, N. H. A. Tala Estate Sites & Services V-B, La Forteza Subd., Novaliches Subd., North Matrix Ville, Doña Helen Subd., PHHC – Camarin B, C & D Subd., Del Rey Ville II Subd., Capitol Park Homes II, Lilies Subd. I & II, Caloocan Metrocor Homes, Almar Subd., Villa Amor 2 Subd., Maria Luisa Subd., Castlespring Heights, Cristina Homes Subd. (Cielito Homes), Villa Susana, Merry Homes II Subd., Franville IV Subd., Good Harvest Park, Caritas Village I, Robes Franville IV Subd., Villa Angelita Subd., Quintos Village, Constellation Homes in Bagong Silang and Camarin, Caloocan City – North; St. Jude Subd., North Olympus Subd., Franville III Subd., Sushlia Village I, Diamond Village, Sierra Madre Subd., Hobart Village and Cruzville Subd. in Bgy. Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Novaliches substation

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, JUNE 10-11, 2005
LAGUNA (CABUYAO)
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (FRI., 06/10/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (SAT., 06/11/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 65XV – CANLUBANG 64XE
Asia Brewery Compound in Bo. Sala.
REASON: Replacement of rotten wood pole along Balibago – Canlubang National Road.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2005
CAVITE (BACOOR)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT DASMARIÑAS 42DA
Along Molino – Paliparan Road from Queen's Row Road to and including Caltex gas station in Bgy. Molino
Along Queen's Row Road from Molino – Paliparan Road to near Queen's Row Mini Market including Molino Public Market, Southbound Property Ventures, Holy Infant Jesus High School, Gardenia Valley, Green Valley Subd. and Queen's Row Subd. in Bgy. Molino
Along Queen's Ave. from near Gawaran Heights Subd. to near Queen's Row Rotunda including Queen's Row Elem School and Camella Springville – North in Bgy. Molino
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DASMARIÑAS 42DA
Portion of Queen's Row Rotunda from near Queen's Row Road to near Queen's Ave. in Queen's Row Subd., Bgy. Molino.
REASON: Relocation of facilities along Queen's Row Rotunda in Queen's Row Subd., Bgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

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Honor awaits men, women in record strawberry cake

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The unsung heroes who steered the baking of the world's largest strawberry cake here were elated that their efforts finally paid off in the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records.

From March 16 to March 20 last year, the volunteer crew of 426 people painstakingly sliced, treated and mixed 3,116 kilograms of fresh strawberries with the necessary ingredients to finish 2,150 pans of strawberry butter cake.

The pans of cake were later crafted into a giant strawberry cake that measured 3.73 meters long, 2.63 meters wide and 2.55 meters high.

The cake, which Guinness officially confirmed on May 31, 2005, as the "world's largest short fruitcake," served 42,080 slices on March 20, 2004 at the town' Lednicky Hall.

Mayor Nestor Fongwan said a grand celebration capped by a *cañao*, a native ritual of thanksgiving, will be held during the town's foundation day on June 16.

The men and women behind the success of the world record—60 bakers, 30 strawberry farmers, 65 community women, 99 students and 172 committee members—would be honored that day.

They all completed the round the clock tasks of landscaping, preparation of boxes, cooking, preserving, selling of tickets, tabulation, food preparation, serving, guest relations, transportation, physical arrangement, ushering and security work.

Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism, said with the record, "[La Trinidad] will soar high in terms of prestige and the demand for strawberries is expected to increase."

Molintas and Fongwan thanked Sen. Richard Gordon for allotting P500,000 when he was still tourism secretary as starting capital to bake the cake.

Local officials said the cake cost P1 million.

The bakers were led by Eric Dion Espadero of Valley Bread and Mignonette Fontanilla of Cranberry bakeries here. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GMA help sought for OFW facing beheading in Saudi

GUAGUA, Pampanga—"Please save my husband as you did Angelo."

A tearful Melody Cortez made that frantic appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday on behalf of her husband Reynaldo, 39, who on Tuesday was sentenced to die by beheading in Saudi Arabia.

Referring to the successful rescue of Angelo de la Cruz, also a Kapampangan from Mexico town, in July last year, Melody begged the President, her *kabalen* (province mate), to exert all efforts to save her husband.

"*Kailangan de pa reng anak mi* (His six children still need him)," she said of Reynaldo, 39, the only breadwinner in their family.

Reynaldo, who has been working as a welder in Saudi Arabia since 1993, was convicted of killing a Pakistani taxi driver in May 2002.

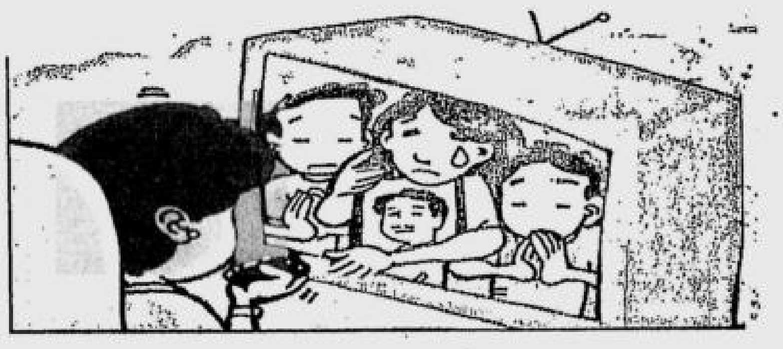
Melody said the family was shocked when they received news that Reynaldo's jail term of 15-20 years was changed to a death sentence when the taxi driver's family refused to accept blood money.

Melody said her husband killed the taxi driver out of self-defense. The driver, she said, was forcing her husband to perform sexual acts.

Alfie, their 18-year-old son, said he last talked to his father by overseas call on Tuesday night. He said his father was desperate to get government support.

Melody said Reynaldo, who held back tears during the conversation with his son, urged the family to stay calm, stay together and pray for God's mercy.

They have been helping her raise the P1.45 million (100,000 Saudi rials) blood money for the family of the taxi driver. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



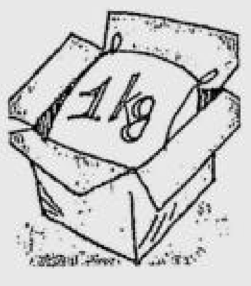
ROUNDUP

Farmer gets death

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A judge here sentenced a farmer in Baggao, Cagayan to death for raping and getting his 11-year-old sister-in-law pregnant in 2001. Judge Lyliha Aquino of the regional trial court here said the man started raping his sister-in-law, then 10 years old, in September 2000. The abuse continued until October that year. A medical certificate submitted to the court confirmed that the girl was raped. Records said the girl was abused thrice in September and twice in October 2000. The girl, now 15, gave birth to a baby boy in July 2001. The baby was presented during one of the hearings and the man admitted in court that he sired the boy. But in a nine-page decision issued on May 17, Aquino rejected the farmer's defense that he and his sister-in-law were lovers. Aquino ordered the farmer to pay the girl P125,000 in damages.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

1 kg of cocaine seized



TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police and Philippine Coast Guard personnel recovered a package containing a kilogram of cocaine in the waters off Calayan, Cagayan, on Tuesday. Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Cagayan police director, said they were verifying reports that the cocaine was part of a shipment seized from an illegal drug suspect last year. Calayan Mayor Joseph Llopis tipped off maritime policemen about the cocaine find. Melad said the police are strictly monitoring the islands of Camiguin, Dalupiri, Fuga and the Babuyan group of islands in Cagayan to stop the smuggling of chemicals and other ingredients in the manufacture of illegal drugs. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor's win affirmed

TABACO CITY—A regional trial court here has affirmed the proclamation by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) of Mayor Emiliana Kare as the winner in the May 10, 2004 local elections in Malinao, Albay. In affirming the Comelec's action, the court also denied the petition of Abelardo Ceriola to proclaim him as the winner in the mayoral race in the nearby Malinao town. In a decision penned by Judge Virginia Almonte, presiding judge of RTC Branch 17 here, Kare was declared winner in a revision petition filed by Ceriola. On May 14 last year, Comelec proclaimed Kare as the winner in the mayoral race over Ceriola by 122 votes only. Ceriola immediately filed a petition for revision of votes before the court for alleged anomalies in the conduct of the elections, like intimidation of members of the Board of Election Inspectors and voters by alleged Army men.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cagayan reunion

THE CAGAYAN High School Batch of 1955 will hold a reunion to celebrate the batch's Golden Jubilee and the 100th year of its alma mater, the Cagayan National High School on July 2-6. All members of Batch 1955 of the Cagayan National High School are asked to take part in the reunion to be led by retired Gen. Emiliano D. Templo and Renato Villanueva, batch president and vice president, respectively. All members may contact the following: Erlinda Reyes-Pagaddu, (078) 844-6063, 0917-897-1366; Julieta Bautista-Narag, (078) 844-6352, 0917-2027800; Jesusa Padilla-Laragan, (078) 880-4279, 0918-3282810.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASTE TREATMENT
Cavite Gov. Erineo Maliksi (third from left) visits the site of the proposed P300M industrial and biochemical waste treatment facility with officials of Cleanway Technology Corp., the project's builder.

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1. abiogenesis 2. callable bonds 3. John14:1 4. power 5. Quran 6. kiting 7. memory 8. 09204835090 9. affaire de coeur 10. tzatziki

Class opening faces same woes in provinces

CITY OF MALOLOS—A number of public elementary and high school students in Bulacan who will report to their respective schools next week would find themselves standing inside their classrooms due to the lack of desks and armchairs.

Officials of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the province said they still need more than 25,000 armchairs and desks to comply with its "one student, one furniture" policy this school year.

But Teofila Villanueva, DepEd's division superintendent for Bulacan, said her office had bought at least 25,000 school desks and armchairs in January this year using the Special Education Fund (SEF) of various local governments.

In Cagayan, Rep. Manuel Mamba asked DepEd officials here to send more teachers to the province's third district.

He said the teacher-student ratio in Enrile town is 1:24; 1:36 in Iguig; and 1:74 in Tuao. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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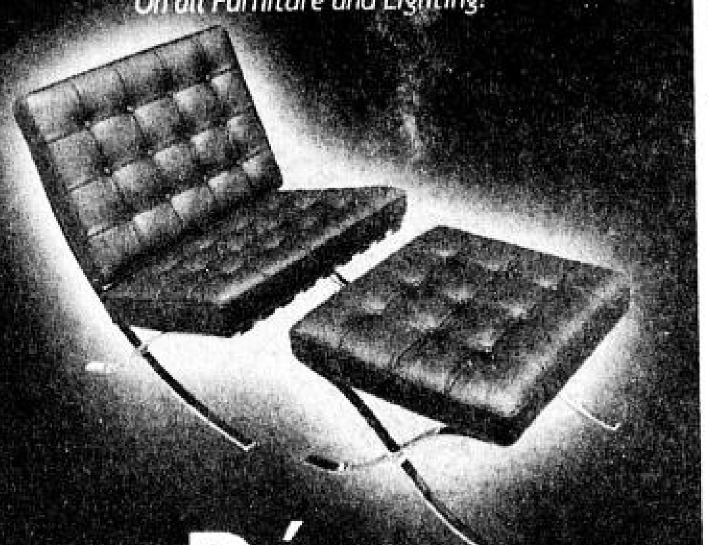

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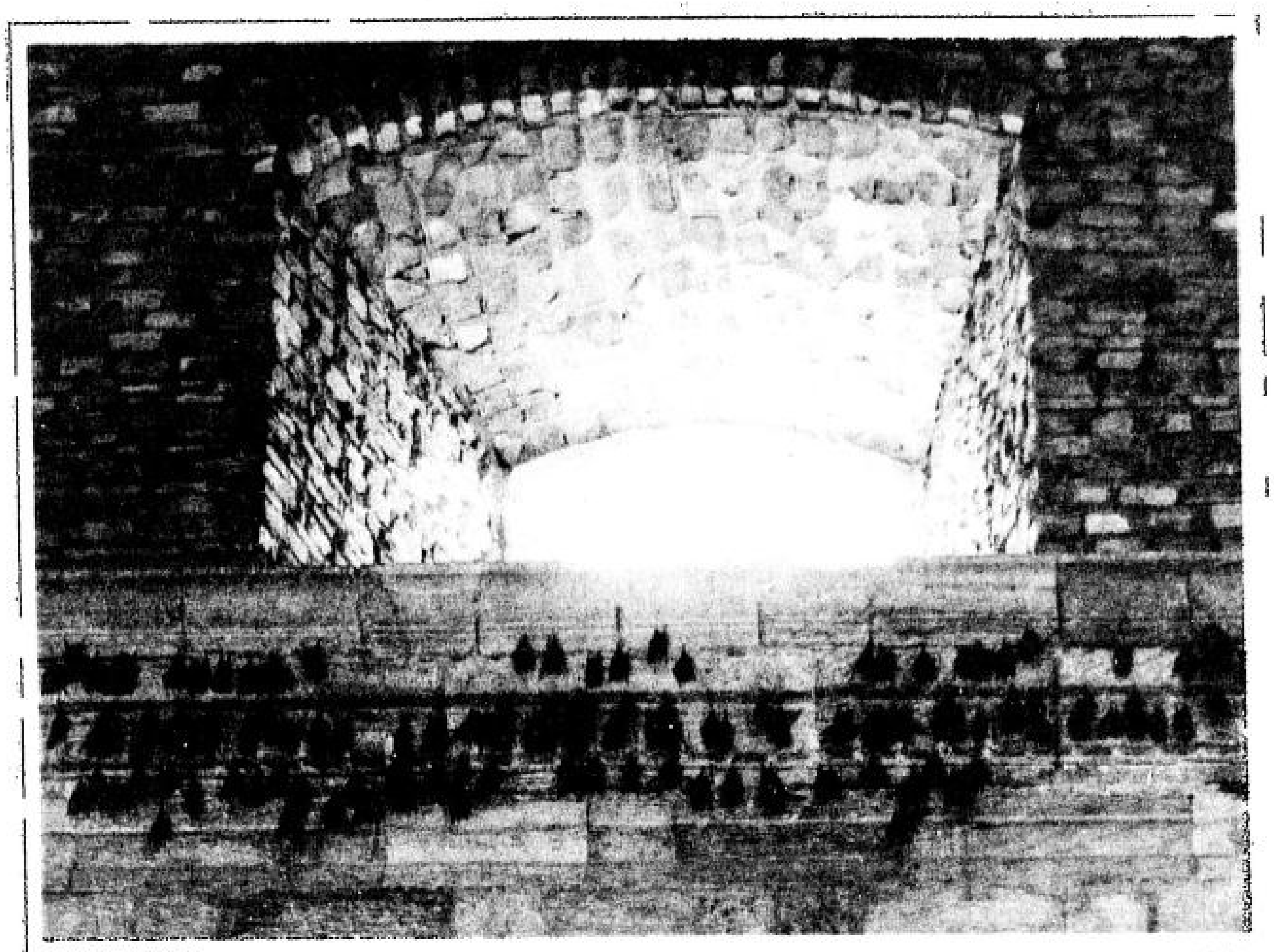

ERNIE SARMIENTO

HANGOUT
Bats hang on the walls of the Mangatarem Church in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

S. Korea group distributes pigs in W. Visayas

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A non-government organization based in South Korea has donated almost half a million pesos in livestock assistance to poor families in three towns in Western Visayas.

Under the Pig Bank Project, a piglet was distributed to each of the 200 poor families in Barotac Viejo and Badiangan towns in Iloilo and Jordan town in Guimaras during a ceremonial turnover ceremony on Wednesday at the Korea-Philippines Cooperation Center in Molo District here.

Among those who attended were Mayors Raul Tupas of Barotac Viejo and Suzette Mamon of Badiangan.

The livestock assistance is estimated to be worth P400,000, said Cho Moon Hwan, president of the World Mission for Hungry People Inc.

The beneficiary-barangays in the Pig Bank Project are San Geronimo in Barotac Viejo, Catubig in Badiangan and Balcon Maravilla in Jordan.

The World Mission for Hungry People Inc. initiated the Pig Bank Project with the Incheon Council of Saemul Leaders in South Korea as benefactors.

"With cooperation and determination, we are pressing for a productive livelihood program which will benefit and empower each barangay resident," said Cho.

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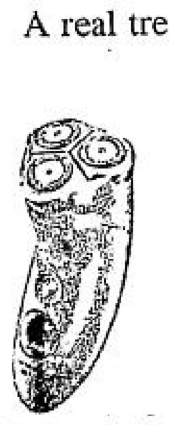

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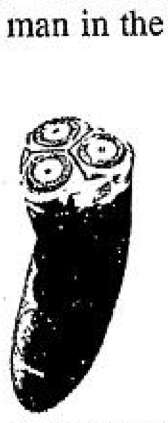

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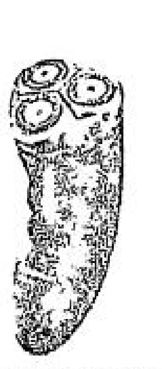

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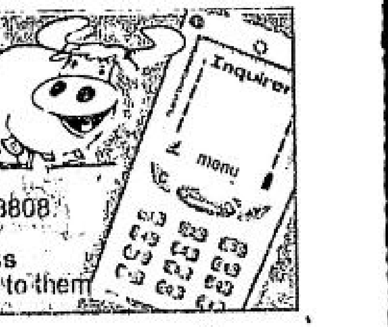

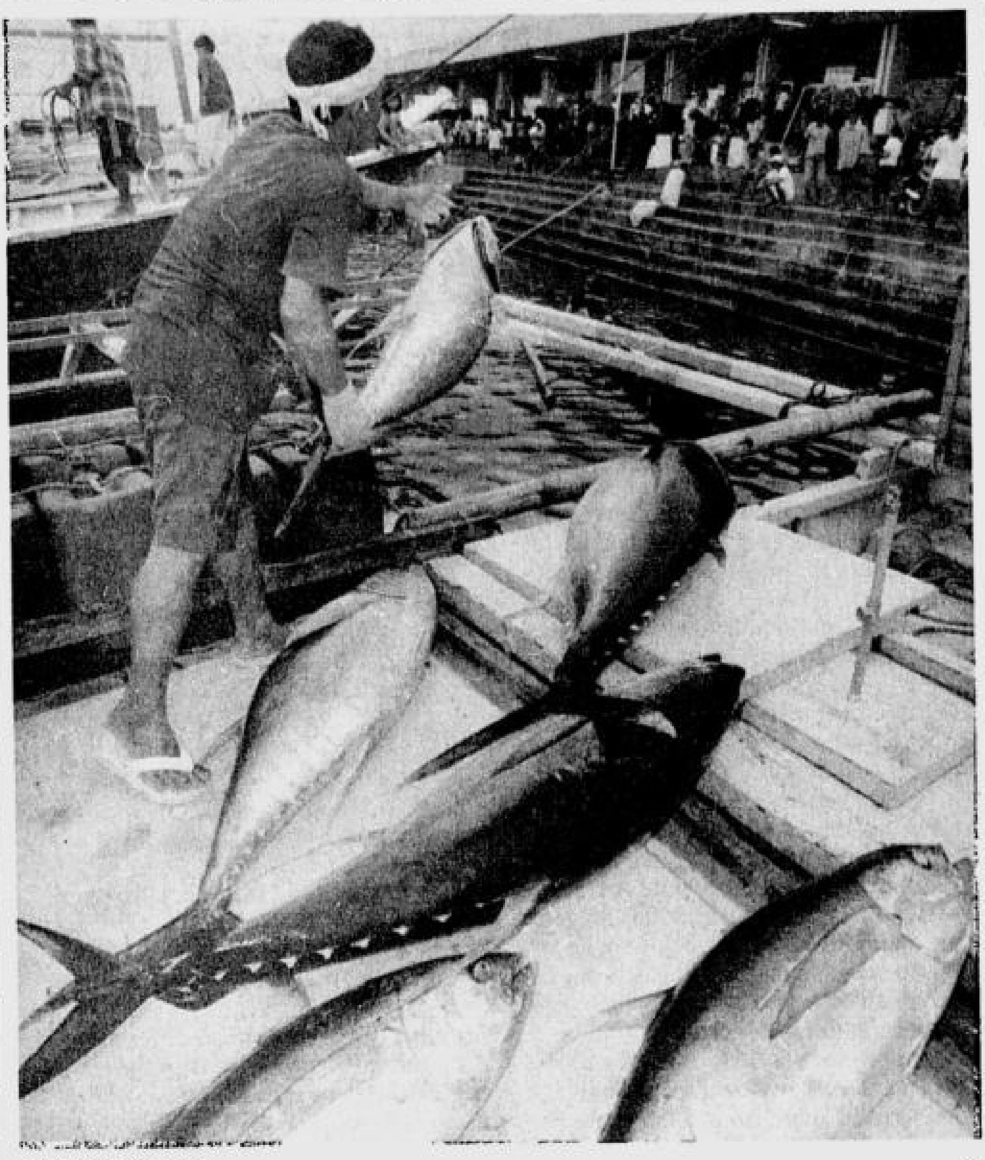

TUNA PORT AP

A fisherman throws tuna into the waters for retrieval by other porters as they unload their catch at the fish port in General Santos City Tuesday, May 31, 2005. General Santos is home to the Philippines largest tuna fish port and boasts of one of the world's biggest suppliers of fresh tuna helping the country's economy.

Appeals court junks bid to annul Cavite land deal

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—The Court of Appeals has dismissed a petition of Vice Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla for the annulment of a compromise agreement entered into by Gov. Erineo Maliksi to resolve the 1982 expropriation case involving the property where the provincial capitol and other offices are now situated.

Remulla said he had already filed a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court as early as last week.

He filed his petition for annulment on Sept. 21 last year.

In the resolution promulgated on May 18, Justices Amelita Tolentino, Roberto Barrios and Vicente Veloso dismissed the case on the grounds that Remulla "is not a total stranger to the compromise agreement duly approved in an amended decision by the Regional Trial Court of Trece Martires City, Branch 23 on March 25, 2004 ..."

Presented

The resolution noted that the compromise agreement was duly presented for ratification to the 15th regular session of the provincial board, which was presided over by Remulla himself, on Aug. 2, 2004.

"The petitioner did not interpose any opposition thereto, in fact, he even made a suggestion contained in paragraph 4 of the Joint Affidavit," it added.

The justices added that Remulla failed to show that Maliksi was not authorized to sign the compromise agreement on behalf of the province.

The ruling also said Remulla failed to sufficiently explain why and how the terms and conditions of the agreement had violated laws.

Basis

Remulla said the CA's decision was not based on the merits of the case he filed before the court.

"Rather, the decision was based on the lack of qualifications of the petitioner because the court said no public funds were used. But it does not take away the fact that Governor Maliksi entered into a disadvantageous contract," he said in a mobile phone interview.

He said he was surprised by the decision as he alleged that the CA had earlier rescinded the contract.

Asked if he can still expect a favorable decision from the high court, he said, "Yes. I think so."

Lawyer Leilani Dacanay-Grimares, provincial legal office chief and Maliksi's counsel, said Remulla and his lawyer, Sigfried Fortun, had filed several petitions against the governor already, but all of them were denied by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Maliksi "did not infringe the law, but instead, went through the proper procedure before entering into an accord with the owners of the expropriated property," Grimares said.

She said the governor had no personal interest in the property as alleged by Remulla, but simply intervened as provincial head to put an end to the case that had been dragging for a long time.

No personal interest

Case records said a certain De Villa family donated a portion of their 39-hectare property in the city to the provincial government in 1957.

The family allowed the use of 13 hectares for the construction of the Capitol building and other offices.

From 1957 to 1982, however, other buildings, such as the Trece Martires National High School, provincial gym, city public market, public plaza and other agency offices were built outside the donated area.

Donation

Then Governor Remulla made overtures in 1981 to property administrator Marietta O'Hara de Villa for her to donate the 26 hectares to the provincial government.

The De Villa family refused, prompting the elder Remulla to file an expropriation case on Jan. 4, 1982. The provincial government took over the entire property on Jan. 7, 1982 on the basis of a court order after depositing P21,500.

On June 30, 1982, De Villa's heirs filed their answer, alleging P45 per square meter as the condemned property's current market value. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cagayan wage board OKs ₱15 allowance hike

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) has approved the implementation of a P15 daily cost of living allowance (Cola) for Cagayan Valley workers, a top official of the Department of Labor and Employment in the region said on Thursday.

Nathaniel Lacambra, DOLE regional director, said the amount was approved based on the consultative hearings in Santiago City, Tuguegarao City, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya last month.

Lacambra, also concurrent RTWPB chair, said the Cola will only be given to workers receiving P231 in daily wage and below in an effort to help them cope with the rising prices of oil and basic commodities.

The additional allowance is higher than the P8 daily wage hike recommended by the management group of the Cagayan Valley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Isabela Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Isabela Electric Cooperative, and the Cagayan Valley Robina Sugar Mill Corp. during a consultation in Santiago City.

Workers in Cagayan Valley have been demanding for a P101 increase in their daily minimum wage, citing the continuing increase in the prices of oil and basic commodities, transport fare and utility rates. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Batangas Ombudsman was to meet with PDI a day after his murder

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police investigating the murder of the resident Ombudsman of the Batangas provincial government are set to summon an INQUIRER correspondent who was supposed to meet with the victim a day after he was killed.

In an interview with the local media in Batangas City, Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said they were looking into several motives in the killing of Guillermo Gamo, the local anti-graft officer of the Batangas capitol.

Gamo was killed by two unidentified assailants while he was driving his car on his way to his office.

Police said the suspects had trailed the victim from a traffic intersection in the city proper.

Motives

Among the angles the police were looking into was the case the victim was allegedly handling regarding a supposed P500-million beautification project of the provincial capitol.

The deal was supposedly awarded to a construction firm owned by Gov. Armando Sanchez without undergoing public bidding.

Sanchez has denied having a hand in the killing and protested reports linking the provincial capitol beautification project with the killing.

He belied allegations that there was a P500-million project that his administration was undertaking.

No budget?

"The provincial budget for this year is only P900 million. Where will I get the money to finance a P500-million beautification project? Our budget for the construction is only P100 million," Sanchez said in a phone interview.

He also demanded that his name be cleared of the anti-graft investigator's murder, saying he could never order anybody killed.

Gamo was supposed to be interviewed by the Batangas-based INQUIRER correspondent about the anomalous projects at the capitol on Tuesday.

On Monday morning, however, he was ambushed while on his way to the capitol.

His attachè case where he kept his documents was missing.

Sanchez's statement was contrary to his earlier interview last week when he said the entire construction cost from the first phase to the last phase of the beautification project would total P500 million.

He also said the Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved the budget.

But the construction, which started in July last year after evicting 323 capitol squatters, was not in the provincial government budget of 2004.

The construction was a violation of R.A. 9184, which is a criminal offense.

Funeral wake

Lomibao, who flew to Batangas City at about 11 a.m. to visit the funeral wake of Gamo at his residence in Barangay Concepcion, said they were interested in getting the real story behind the allegations implicating Sanchez in the two anomalous deals.

He also quickly visited the crime scene and was briefed by local investigators on the details of the case.

"I instructed our investigating unit to interview whoever was the source of the story (which came out in the INQUIRER). We would be getting all pertinent information so that we can get to the bottom of the case," Lomibao told reporters in Batangas.

Text message

In a text message to the INQUIRER, PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil confirmed that they are planning to invite and get the statement of Mei Magsino-Lubis.

"(But) you may volunteer even without summon to help solve the case," Bataoil said.

Lomibao assured the victim's widow, Maxima, that the police would be working overtime to arrest the suspects and expedite the resolution of the killing.

The PNP chief has formed Task Force Gamo which will be headed by Senior Supt. Abner Cabalquinto, the Calabarzon police chief for operations. *With reports from Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ART WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary students from public schools take part in the Interactive Arts Workshop held in time for the celebration of Children's Week in Baguio City. The workshop was sponsored by the Peace and Equity Foundation Inc.

LGU execs to meet in bid to back GMA

LOCAL officials from across the country are set to meet on June 11 for a rare display of a united stand against destabilization and to call for continued support for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to "defend the democratically-elected government."

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the 1.5-million strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), said in a statement that close to 1,000 local officials, from provincial governors to barangay chairs, will converge in the first LGU Summit for National Unity and Good Governance.

"We want to send a strong message that our people are standing four-square behind the administration of President Arroyo. We cannot achieve prosperity if there is no unity. All these talks by anti-government forces must be stopped and their moves quelled for good," said Aumentado.

The local officials will also join Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet in the traditional raising of the Philippine flag during the Independence Day gala.

"This is going to be historic," said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, in the same statement.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 3, 2005
Sacred Heart of Jesus

1st Reading: Dt 7:6-11
2nd Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-16
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

On one occasion Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

"Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good and my burden is light."

Commentary

This is one of Jesus' prayers to his beloved God-Father, out loud so that we are allowed to overhear and learn how close Jesus is with his God. Jesus praises God for his wisdom in teaching the poor and the simple, the non-violent the holiness of God. And he lets us know that everything has been entrusted to him by the Father and no one knows the Father except him and anyone he chooses to teach, and no one knows the Son except the Father. There is intimacy here, and secrecy and sanctuary. And then we are invited in, when we are weary from the work of the kingdom of justice and peace; invited to pick up the yoke of hard work, of suffering on the cross and the joy of community; and we are invited to learn of Jesus' inmost heart: that is gentle, non-violent (meek) and humble. Only here in Jesus' heart will we find rest, security, sanctuary and the strength to bear our share of the burden of the Gospel and our cross and learn the courage to ease others' burdens as God eases ours. This is a glimpse into Jesus' heart. It is a world that we are reluctant really to enter for it draws us deep into the mystery of suffering for others and love unto death, laying down our lives for one another with Jesus. Come!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK TWO: CRIMES AGAINST HONOR)—Libel; Conduct of professional radio broadcasters—The public has a right to expect and demand that radio broadcast practitioners live up to the code of conduct of their profession, just like other professionals. A professional code of conduct provides the standards for determining whether a person has acted justly, honestly and with good faith in the exercise of his rights and performance of his duties as required by Article 19 of the Civil Code. A professional code of conduct also provides the standards for determining whether a person who willfully causes loss or injury to another has acted in a manner contrary to morals or good customs under Article 21 of the Civil Code. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Caprio, First Division, Filipinas Broadcasting Network, Inc. vs Ago Medical and Educational Center-Bicol Christian College of Medicine, G. R. No. 141994, January 17, 2005) BY R. B. VERA

What was in no. 4 and no. 7?

Turn to the next page.

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Dina Bonnevie, 'beau' face estafa raps

By Tina G. Santos

BONNEVIE

ACTRESS Dina Bonnevie and her constant companion are facing syndicated estafa charges filed against them by the National Bureau of Investigation for allegedly duping several people into investing in a telecommunications business that failed to deliver on its promise.

The actress, Geraldyn Schaer Bonnevie in real life, and Timothy Calvin Riggenberg, chair and president, respectively, of iFreedom Communications Corp., were charged along with 13 other officers of the firm in the Department of Justice Wednesday afternoon.

The case stemmed from complaints filed by Nilo B. Diongzon, Evelyn Diongzon, Augusto B. Bedia, Joelito B. del Castillo and Armando C. Dael, who claimed that in 2003, Riggenberg and another respondent, Anthony Victor Reyes, introduced themselves as businessmen whose companies were authorized to engage in the telecommunications business.

The respondents were also charged with violation of the Securities Regulations Code.

About 40 to 50 more complainants are expected to file similar charges against the couple soon, the NBI said.

The complainants said the respondents claimed to be owners of the latest telecommunications technology known as VoIP (Voice-over Internet Protocol), and had offered, on a promotions basis, telephones using the said technology.

Subscribers were reportedly promised that by using the telephones, they would be able to make inexpensive international calls.

Riggenberg and Reyes allegedly said that the first 50 users of the VoIP telephones would be recognized as co-owners or stockholders of the company, and would be issued stock certificates of 500 shares.

The complainants said the respondents projected that company revenues would grow at the rate of 300 percent a year, thus giving investors a windfall. A check with the Securities and Exchange Commission, however, revealed that the certificates of stocks issued to them were fake, the complainants added.

Incorporation and By-Laws certificates of iFreedom issued by SEC also showed that Riggenberg was not included as among the incorporators of the firm at the time the stock certificates were signed.

The complainants also alleged that the telephones given to them were not equipped with VoIP technology. They added that the respondents also failed to return their investments despite their repeated demands .

Bonnevie was implicated in the case because she is one of the firm's officials, the NBI said.

Her name had been included as one of the incorporators as shown in the company's amended Certificate of Incorporators and By-Laws, it added.

Asked for comment, an indignant Bonnevie told the INQUIRER curtly: "I am not an estafadora (swindler). That is not true at all. I wasn't involved in that company at that time."

"I am not willing to grant an interview right now," she said on the phone, but added that she would come out with an official statement on the issue in a couple of days "as soon as I am ready." *With Bayani San Diego Jr.*

MMDA to schools: more parking lots

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has appealed to schools to ensure enough parking spaces within their campuses to prevent school-bound vehicles from taking over public roads.

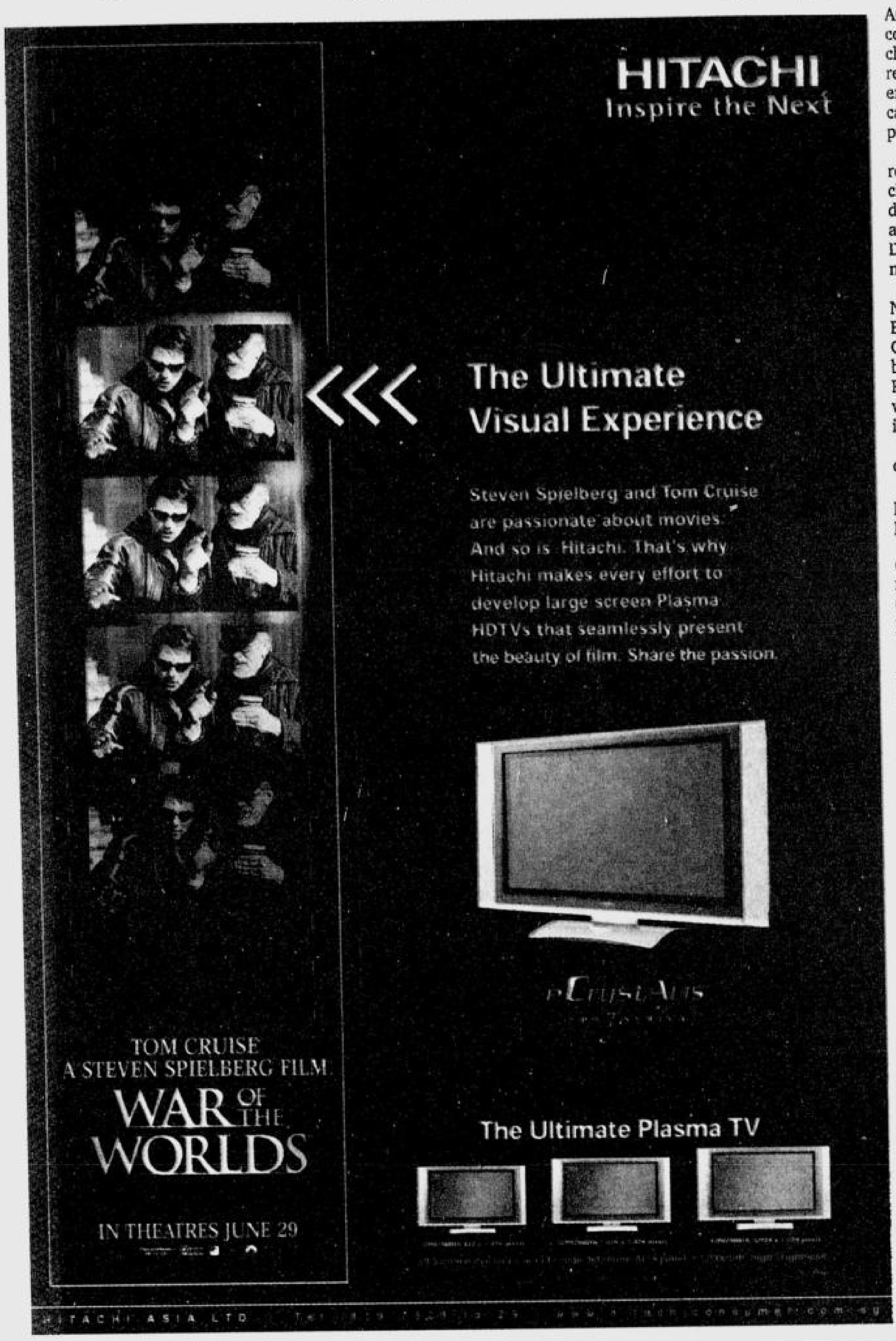
"School administrators must determine the parking requirements within their schools so they would have enough parking space," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

When most schools open on Monday, the agency anticipates traffic volume to double in school zones all over Metro Manila, particularly near private colleges and universities.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA traffic operations center executive director, identified as crucial the University Belt area in Manila; Katipunan Avenue near Miriam College, Ateneo de Manila, and the University of the Philippines-Diliman, in Quezon City, and Ortigas Avenue near La Salle-Greenhills, and Poveda in Mandaluyong City.

Vergel de Dios observed that school-bound motorists, including students who drive their own vehicles, have not only encroached on roads around their campuses, but in fact have parked their vehicles in the streets, once they fail to find a parking space inside the school grounds.

He warned that students and other school employees caught parking on roads risk being cited for a traffic violation, or having their vehicles towed away.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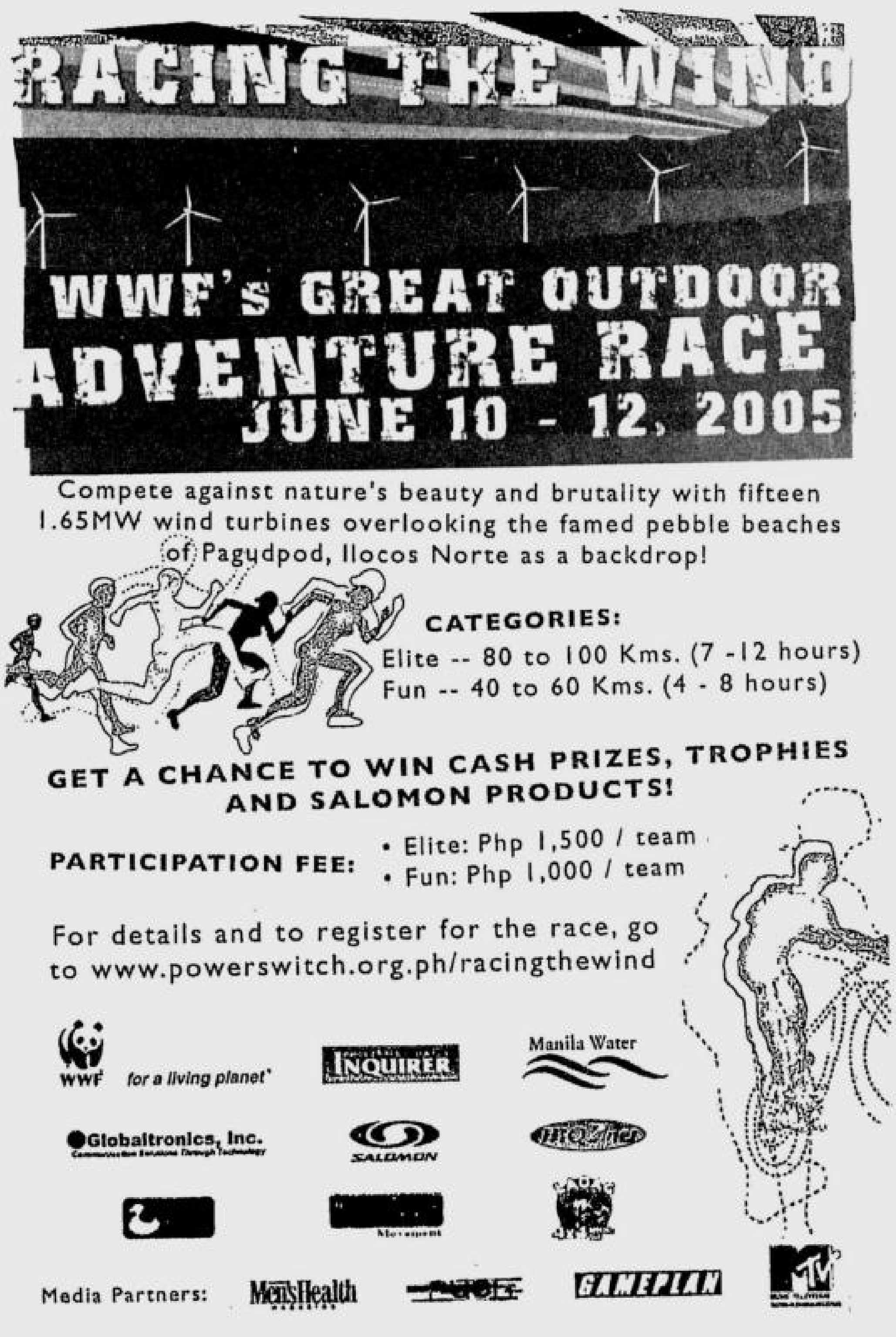
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Curator to tutors: Get clearance for building first

By Tina G. Santos

GET A clearance first.

This was the advice of National Museum curator Angel Bautista to Manila city and school officials who vowed to push through with the construction of the proposed teachers' building inside the disputed Arroceros Forest Park, which had been declared an archeological site.

"They should first get a clearance from the National Museum and stop the diggings for now," Bautista said. The curator had claimed earlier that more archeological materials could be found in the area after artifacts were found there recently.

In an earlier interview, Manila Division of City Schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quiñones had said that they would apply for a clearance from the museum even as she stressed that they were not given any restraining order asking them to stop the construction of the two-story project.

But Bautista said they had not received any formal request for a clearance from Quiñones or the city government.

"Why is it that we have not heard anything from them? There has been no message or any communication at all," Bautista said.

City legal officer Melchor Monsod, speaking on behalf of Mayor Lito Atienza, said the letter sent by National Museum director Corazon Alvina to Winner Foundation, caretakers of the park, declaring the area an archeological site, was of little value.

"A letter alone will not declare an area an archeological site. There has to be due process. Perhaps a resolution from a board duly constituted for this purpose will do," Monsod said.

But Bautista clarified that the National Museum's declaration was "not merely in a form of a letter."

"There is a certificate signed by Alvina in April 2003 that would prove that the forest park was indeed designated an archeological site," Bautista said.

"Besides, the law dictates that excavations in certain areas with a rich archeological heritage should stop, and the National Museum should be allowed to take over to conduct test diggings," he added.

4 suspects in Taguig killings fall

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOUR suspects in the brutal killing of a bakery shop owner and his family in Taguig City on May 28 were arrested by police early yesterday morning.

Albert Leonor, Eduard Ave, Joseph Georfo and Jeffrey Prima were arrested on separate occasions in Taguig, Western Bicutan, Batangas and Quezon City by a composite team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the District Intelligence and Investigation Branch, and the Taguig City police.

Hayda Napura, 44; her husband Antonio, 54; their adopted daughter Haidi, 3, and the family's housemaid Tata Netis, 18, were discovered in a pool of blood inside their house at ISG Central, Sitio Sto. Niño, Barangay Western Bicutan, Taguig City last Sunday evening.

Police found Hayda's headless body with a butcher knife on top of her chest in the master's bedroom. Antonio's body was found in the kitchen, while Haidi's and Netis' bodies were discovered in an adjacent room. The 3-year-old girl's throat was slit while the housemaid was found naked on a bed, and appeared to have been strangled.

Leonor had gone voluntarily to the Taguig police three days after the incident with his older brother, but only to clear his name, said Taguig City police chief Supt. Ramon Reyes.

But when Reyes asked Leonor to explain how he sustained a deep wound in his left hand, the latter said he had hurt himself while he was washing his clothes.

Senior Insp. Elizalde Odi of the Scene of the Crime Operations team also told Leonor that footprints lifted from the crime scene had indicated the owner wore Alfombra slippers, footwear made in Pateros town.

"When he came to us, he was wearing Alfombra slippers. This strengthened the evidence against him," the police chief said.

Leonor eventually broke down during the interrogation and admitted that he participated in the crime that took place in the evening of May 28, police said. He claimed, however, that he only acted as a lookout for his other companions.

The suspect eventually led police to the hideouts of his companions. Ave was arrested at his residence in Sitio Sto. Niño, Western Bicutan, while Georfo was nabbed in Tanauan, Batangas. Prima was apprehended in Barangay Santol, Quezon City.

Leonor had worked as a master baker at the Napura bakery for a year but was dismissed in April allegedly because of a drinking habit, Reyes said.

Leonor's fiancé, who declined to be identified, also turned over to police a pair of shorts belonging to Leonor with traces of blood, and an unlicensed .38-cal. revolver. She claimed that Leonor had washed the shorts shortly after he arrived at their home on May 29. She also said that Leonor had given her P6,000 and a wedding ring.

What is safest time in eastern Metro?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BE CAREFUL when night falls.

Most of the crimes reported in eastern Metro Manila in the first four months of the year happened between 4 p.m. and midnight, a report from the Eastern Police District said.

The possible reason: too much merrymaking in the form of drinking sprees which usually end in brawls.

These hours are also critical because this is the time when students and employees are usually on their way home, police director Oscar Valenzuela said.

The Eastern Police District has jurisdiction over the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Mandaluyong, and the town of San Juan.

The report said that 29 of the 50 crimes against persons reported in the area from January to April happened between 4 p.m. and midnight.

Crimes against persons include murder, homicide, physical injury and rape.

Only 12 of the 50 incidents happened between midnight and 8 a.m. while 10 incidents happened between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The figures were included in a situation report the police district presented before new Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol last week.

Valenzuela said that in reaction to the report, the district would increase police visibility during these hours.

The other day, the district formed Task Force Crossing to deploy more policemen on the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

Vendors said the area had become a haven of street robbers, preying not only on commuters but also on the stalls on the sidewalks.

Citing another report, Valenzuela said the district recorded the least number of crimes in Metro Manila in the first four months of 2005.

From January to April, at least 472 crime incidents were reported in the area, based on a table he showed the INQUIRER.

This is significantly lower compared to the Northern Police District, where 1, 434 crime incidents were reported, the highest in Metro Manila for the period.

The NPD covers the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela, and the town of Navotas.

A close second in crime volume is the Southern Police District, which has jurisdiction over the cities of Pasay, Taguig, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Makati and Las Piñas, and the town of Pateros.

The SPD had 1,349 crime incidents during the covered period.

The Central Police District covering Quezon City had 1,151 crime incidents, while the Western Police District had 965 incidents.

DPWH 'inaction' on flood project in Camanava hit

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MORE than three months after a Japanese bank requested the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to take action on complaints against the design of a P5-billion flood control project the bank had funded, nothing much has happened, according to a spokesperson of residents affected by the project.

"Until now, the DPWH has not moved to correct the faulty design, " said Carina Agarao during a visit to the site yesterday.

Letter

The letter signed by Osamu Murata, the country's Chief Representative of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) which granted the loan for the flood control project, was addressed to Bashir D. Rasuman, DPWH undersecretary.

"We would like to request the DPWH to take appropriate action on this matter," Murata's letter said, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Murata also informed the agency about the petitioners' grievances about its failure to sufficiently address the issues they had raised.

He was referring to a petition submitted to the JBIC with the signatures of 1,000 people living within the project area.

Appeal

The petitioners had appealed to the JBIC for a review and redesign of the flood control structures, citing findings made by University of the Philippines geologists Dr. Kevin Rodolfo and Dr. Fernando Siringan.

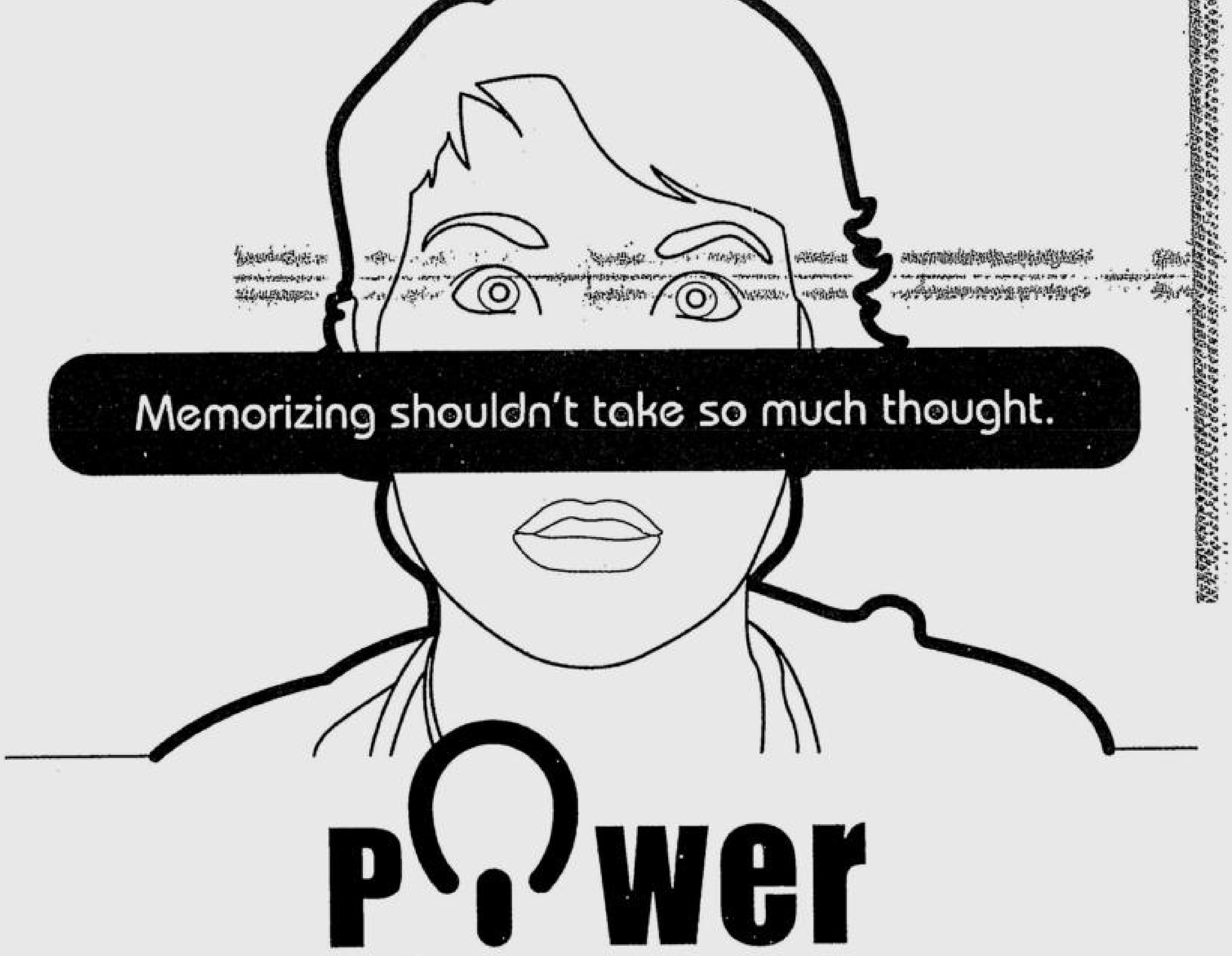
The professors had been vocal about their opposition to the technical design of the project, the structure of the polder dikes and the regulation ponds.

Because of the construction of some of the structures in the project area, lives could be endangered, Agarao said.

According to her, the DPWH had consistently used budget considerations to defend their position on the matter.

4. power

7. memory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Kornets, P'masters back in contention

A DRIVING Neil Raneses of Magnolia Ice Cream loses the ball as he is fouled by Marvin Ortiguerra of Welcoat Paints during their game yesterday.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

DELIVERING a pumped-up performance, Granny Goose extended its semifinal campaign in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

JR Quiñahan again carried the Kornets' offense as Granny Goose derailed Montaña Pawnshop's bid to reach the finals with a 65-61 decision.

Quiñahan topscored with 17 points and added six rebounds and four blocks, although the Kornets turned to Jett Latonio and Marvin Cruz in the closing minutes.

"Our offense collapsed in the final seconds but our defense was there," said Kornets coach Jun Tan.

Earlier, Anthony Washington snapped out of his shooting slump to power Welcoat Paints past Magnolia Ice Cream, 76-65, for a 2-1 lead.

Washington, who scored a measly point in Game 1, finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds as Welcoat moved a win away from the finals.

Veteran Jojo Tangkay, who just recently recovered from an ACL injury, also returned to form,

KORNETS/ A27

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(*JCSGO Gym*)
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4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Magnolia

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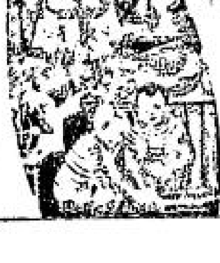

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Dasalla prevails; Davadilla keeps yellow jersey

STAGE winner Johnny Dasalla quenches his thirst along a steep stretch of Marcos Highway. The Colt 45 rider soloed it home, more than 4:47 minutes ahead of second placer Arnel Quirimit. BOY CABRIDO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BAGUIO CITY—The mountain gods finally shook up the standings yesterday but couldn't dislodge Warren Davadilla from the overall lead of the Golden Tour 50at05.

Davadilla, the 1998 champion, finished a fighting fifth behind Stage 7 winner and Colt 45 teammate Johnny Dasalla in the punishing 217-km drive from Vigan to this City of Pines via Marcos Highway and showed he deserved to wear the winner's yellow jersey for good.

Still holding a solid lead of two minutes and 21 seconds over new chief challenger Arnel Quirimit, Davadilla only has to stay close to the other Top 5 riders in today's decisive Baguio-to-Baguio stage to virtually secure his second bikathon crown.

Termed as the "killer lap," the stage takes the riders down through Marcos Highway, returning to Baguio through Naguillan, descending yet again through Marcos before scaling the mountains one last time via Kennon Road.

"*Ngayon pa lang nag-uumpisa ang karera* (The race has just started)," said Quirimit, the 2003 champion and Tourism skipper who jumped from seventh overall by clinching second place for the day behind Dasalla.

The 22-year-old Dasalla, from Umingan, Pangasinan, soloed it home in the rain, clocking five hours, 58 minutes and 25 seconds to spark Colt 45 to the team overall lead.

Dasalla, who trained for three months in the equally formidable route to Banaue under his idol and coach Carlo Guieb, also a former Tour winner, sprang from 22nd place to fourth overall behind Frederick Feliciano of VAT Riders.

Feliciano, the Stage 5 winner, was fourth for the day, just 13 seconds off Lito Atilano of Metro Drug, who followed Quirimit home and advanced from ninth to fifth overall.

Feliciano now trailed Davadilla by 2:33 or just 12 seconds behind Quirimit. Dasalla is just 2:53 off the lead and Atilano, the Stage 4 winner, is also a major threat at 3:42 behind Warren.

The day's heartbreak kid proved to be defending champion Rhyan Tanguilig of PLDT, who got trapped in the snail-like pace of the main pack and arrived here 14th, 11:21 behind Dasalla.

Tanguilig, last year's mountain king and Davadilla's main shadow starting in the third lap, dropped to sixth overall, 7:20 away from the pole from 2:25 at the start of the stage.

Quirimit, who trained in the Ancuna mountains in Italy prior to this Tour, said today's two climbs will decide the champion.

But Davadilla said it's the descent—not the ascent—that bothers him most. "*Mahina ako sa lusong* (I'm not sure I can go down as fast," he said.

But the Colt 45 skipper is expected to get all the support from his teammates, more so because they are now out front in the team race where the top prize is P700,000.

Quirimit got a big lift from teammates Sherwin Diamsay and Oscar Rendole when they peeled away just 20 kms into the 217-km route. The lead pack led by almost seven minutes when it reached San Juan, La Union.

But he had to drop back as he answered the call of nature and found himself in the second group with eventual stage winner Dasalla.

Stage 7 Results

STAGE RESULTS

1. J. Dasalla, Colt 45, 5 hours 58 minutes 25 seconds
2. A Quirimit, Tourism, 4 minutes 47 seconds behind
3. L. Atilano, Metro Drug, 5:11
4. E. Feliciano, Vat Riders, 5:24
5. W. Davadilla, Colt 45, 6:26
6. S. Diamsay, Tourism, 7:15
7. M. Reyes, Colt 45, 8:49
8. D. Maraña, Colt 45, same
9. M. Primero, Custom 9:43
10. J. Tolentino, Guerrero Brandy, same
11. B. Ravina, Go 21, 9:58
12. G. Gines, Custom, 10:52
13. A. Benosa, Touch Mobile 11:02
14. R. Tanguilig, PLDT 11:21
15. D. Perez, Colt 45, same
16. R. Sambrano, Guerrero Brandy, same
17. R. Gorantes, Go 21, same
18. V. Muena, Guerrero Brandy, same
19. R. Navarro, Custom 11:42
20. J. Paras, Go 21, 12:01
21. E. Obosa, Go 21, same
22. E. Pablo, VAT Riders, 12:25
23. A. Marcelo, PLDT, 13:16
24. E. Quinones, Custom 13:27
25. D. Hardin, Custom 13:56

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL

1. W. Davadilla, Colt 45, 25 hours, 42 minutes 43 seconds
2. A. Quirimit, Tourism, two minutes 21 seconds behind
3. E. Feliciano, VAT Riders, 2:33
4. J. Dasalla, Colt 45, 2:53
5. L. Atilano, Metro Drug, 3:42
6. R. Tanguilig, PLDT, 7:20
7. A. Benosa, Touch Mobile, 7:30
8. R. Navarro, Custom, 8:06
9. E. Obosa, Go 21, 10:27
10. F. Alagano, Metro Drug, 11:00
11. R. Sambrano, Guerrero Brandy 11:17
12. B. Ravina, Go 21, 11:28
13. S. Diamsay, Tourism, 11:36
14. M. Primero, Custom, 11:41
15. V. Muena, Guerrero Brandy, 12:02
16. D. Perez, Colt 45, 12:09
17. D. Marana, Colt 45, 12:52
18. S. Bamachea, Touch Mobile, 13:12
19. E. Quinones, Custom, 14:14
20. M. Reyes, Colt 45, 14:31
21. O. Villanueva, VAT Riders, 15:39
22. D. Ganigan, Guerrero Brandy, 15:46
23. M. Mcquin Aleonar, VAT Riders 16:59
24. R. Gorantes, Go 21, 17:05
25. W. Calosa, Guerrero Brandy, 18:30

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Colt 45 98 hours, 39 minutes 13.189 seconds
2. Metro drug 4 minutes 4.891 seconds behind
3. Tourism 23:33.638 mins
4. Guerrero Brandy 24:22.255 mins
5. VAT Riders 26:10.600 mins
6. Custom 31:47.571 mins
7. GO 21 35:15.478 mins
8. Touch Mobile 45:18.971 mins
9. PLDT 53:48.892 mins

Colt 45 riders wrest team lead with 3 stages left

BAGUIO—Johny Dasalla led a dominating performance by Colt 45 riders in the seventh stage of the Tanduay presents… Golden Tour 50@'05 to put his squad in the overall team lead heading into the final three stages of the cycling spectacle.

Dasalla topped the punishing 217-km journey from Vigan to here, crossing the finish at this picturesque city all by his lonesome to lead three other Colt 45 riders in the top 8 for the day for a total time of 24 hours, 17 minutes and 37.140 seconds.

Colt 45 now enjoys a 23:04.891 advantage over Metro Drug, the team leader until yesterday, even as crowd-favorite Guerrero Brandy stayed in fourth spot, 24:22.255 off the pace.

Overall leader Warren Davadilla, the Colt 45 skipper, checked in fifth for the stage, while Michael Reyes and Darwin Maraña arrived joint seventh.

Meanwhile, Tanduay's free concert today will start at 7 p.m. at the Burnham Park even as it hosts a bigger party from 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Baywalk Park along Roxas Boulevard with Myles Hernandez and Jennifer Lee as guests.

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SPORTSWATCH

RP lawn bowlers on target for crown

KUALA LUMPUR—The San Miguel Beer Super Dry-RP Team swept all six matches yesterday to remain on track for the overall title of the 4th Asian Lawn Bowls Championship at the Kuala Lumpur Lawn Bowls Complex here. The Filipino bowlers played a more consistent game and need only one more win to clinch a quarterfinal seats in both the men's doubles and triples events. Twenty-six-year-old Chris Dagpin, and Leoncio Carreon, both veterans of last year's World Bowls Championship, were the most consistent as they humbled China, 18-11, early in the day before trouncing Japan, 32-3, to reach the next round. Both Dagpin and the 24-year-old Carreon need only to win against Thailand today to reach the finals of the men's pair event. Other winners for the RP squad, which is in the thick of preparations for the forthcoming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, are the trio of Herminio Dagpin, Angelo Morales and Reynaldo Samia who won over the Chinese, 33-4. The Filipinos later humbled the Japanese, 37-7, to secure their third win and a quarterfinal slot in the triples event. The women's pair of Ronalyn Greenlees and Rosita Bradbon likewise secured their second win at the expense of the Japanese, 22-8, while the trio of Milagros Witheridge, Sonia Bruce and Elinita Apkins won over the Singaporeans, 24-10. Ronald Lising provided the Philippines' sixth win by defeating local favorite Kharil Faezi Aziz, 21-20, in the singles of the under-25 division.

Pasay 4-cocker kicks off tonight

SIXTY fights are on tap in a special 4-cock derby tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B- 50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free as sponsors. Derby hosts Wilmer Ting and Roming Vergara said a cash prize of P250,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P7,700. Interested parties may call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750. The Pasay cockpit will also present a super 4- cock derby on June 10 with American cockers and breeders as well as derby champions from the Visayas and Mindanao seeing action. The event will be hosted by father-and-son Jet and Joel Fernando of Pampanga. The American contingent will be bannered by Billy Johnson, who has racked up countless championships in the US and Mexico.

Derby marks Cainta coliseum's 15th year

A CASH prize of P300,000 is at stake in the Special 4-Cock Derby at the Cainta Fair Center and Coliseum which celebrates its 15th anniversary on Sunday. Sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds, the country's leader in gamefowl health and nutrition, the derby is hosted by Sam, George and Benjie and requires an entry fee of P6,600. Submission of weights is on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on the derby day from 7 a.m to 12 noon. On June 11, Thunderbird's Grower Maintenance Pellets also sponsors the P300,000 4-Cock B-day Derby at the Century Game Club in Banawa, Cebu City, promoted by the TCS Brothers. For reservation of cockhouses, call Tennyson Chiong Sy at 0920-928-3064; Theodore Chiong Sy at 0920-925-6459, or 254-6269.

HORSE OWNER'S JOY: David Lee (second from right) acknowledges the handshake of Marho vice president Butch Mamon following the victory of his horse Empire King over Mamon's Cover Girl in the Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup held recently on the occasion of the 31st Marho Founders' Cup racefest at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. Joining in the celebration were (from left) Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, SMC AVP Ramon Santiago and Marho director Raymund Puyat.

Lebanon pins second loss on National five

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—The RP-San Miguel Beer squad gave chase but Lebanon-Sagesse was not the type which breaks down easily.

The Nationals cut down a 20-point deficit to a manageable level only to succumb to the accurate free-throw shooting by Lebanon which escaped with a 100-90 decision last night and left the host country with a second straight defeat in the FedEx Fiba-Asia Champions Cup in two days.

Willie Miller knocked in 13 straight points and Renren Ritualo added three triples and several free throws after Lebanon had taken a 64-44 lead.

But the rally fell short as Lebanon made its last 11 free throws with NBA prospect Fadi Khatib converting six of as the Nationals went on a fouling spree.

After Tony Dela Cruz delivered RP's final triple to make it 90-95, Paul Joseph Khoury answered with two charities that iced the game.

Lebanon notched its third victory after four games and advanced into the quarterfinals against Kuwait, which finished the elimination round third behind Qatar and Jordan in Group B.

The Nationals will face Jordan-Fastlink in the next round after splitting their four games in the preliminaries. Jordan wound up second in Group B while RP-SMC ended up third in Group A.

Ritualo shot six of 11 from beyond the arc and finished with 26 points while Miller had 22, half of them in the final five minutes.

RP COACH Chot Reyes rues lack of resolve by his team in the first half.

Rommel Adducul, the anchor of the country's might in the paint, went scoreless for the first time in the tournament after getting into foul trouble early on.

Tempers flared midway into the third when Enrico Villanueva pulled former PBA import Stephen Howard near the half-court line after the latter jerked a foot following a hard foul by Marc Caguioa.

The rhubarb came with four minutes and 15 seconds to play in the third and with Lebanon ahead, 63-44.

Villanueva was later thrown out for unsportsmanlike conduct. Howard, who played for Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel in the PBA, escaped ejection.

The scores:

SMB PHILIPPINES 90—Ritualo 26, Miller 22, Dela Cruz 13, Caguioa 9, Alapag 8, De Ocampo 5, Belasco 3, Villanueva 2, Hontiveros 2, Thoss 0, Reavis 0, Adducul 0.

LEBANON 100—Saterfield 40, Khatib 24, Khoury 10, Howard 10, Mechantaf 7, Balaa 4, Ghatass 3, Mechantaf E. 2.

Quarters: 27-17, 52-41, 72-55, 100-90.

Kornets . . .

From page A25

shooting eight of his 14 points in the Paintmasters' final-quarter run.

"We came out as a better team," said Caloy Garcia, whose squad is gunning for a fourth straight finals appearance. "But we can't be overconfident because Magnolia plays 100 percent every game."

The Jewels clamped down on Quiñahan in the final period, but Latonio and Cruz's offense lifted Granny Goose to a 62-56 lead.

Erick dela Cuesta and Alex Compton cut the deficit to 62-61 with 47.5 seconds remaining, but the Kornets turned up the defensive pressure in the dying seconds.

The Jewels, who are seeking a second straight title, could not find their offensive game. Scoring leaders Jon Dan Salvador was limited to eight points, while Compton was held to five.

Tangkay and Washington sparked Welcoat's offense in the final period before Eugene Tan gave the Paintmasters a 70-60 buffer with 2:50 left.

Kelly Williams, the Wizards' dynamic Fil-Am recruit, finished with his lowest output in seven games—12 points and 14 rebounds.

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 76—Washington 16, Tangkay 14, Tan 10, Reyes 9, Coching 6, Guevarra 6, Sta. Maria 5, Ortiguerra 3, Dy 3, Najorda 2,Junio 2, Orbeta 0.

MAGNOLIA 65—Santos 17, Williams 12, Rañeses 10, Miranda 8, Calli 5, Misolas 5, Co 5, Islp 3, Jones 0, Rizada 0.

Quarters: 17-15, 37-32, 52-52, 76-65

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 65—Quiñahan 17, Cruz 10, Concha 9, Latonio 6, Almeda 6, Cervantes 5, Saladaga 4, Grijaldo 3, Santos 3, Ferrer 2, Alfad 0, Manalo 0, Lanete 0.

MONTAÑA 61—Mercado 14, Capus 11, Baguion 10, Salvador 8, Compton 5, Juntilla 4, Vergara 4, Guerrero 3, Dela Cuesta 2, Espiritu 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 35-33, 51-46, 65-61.

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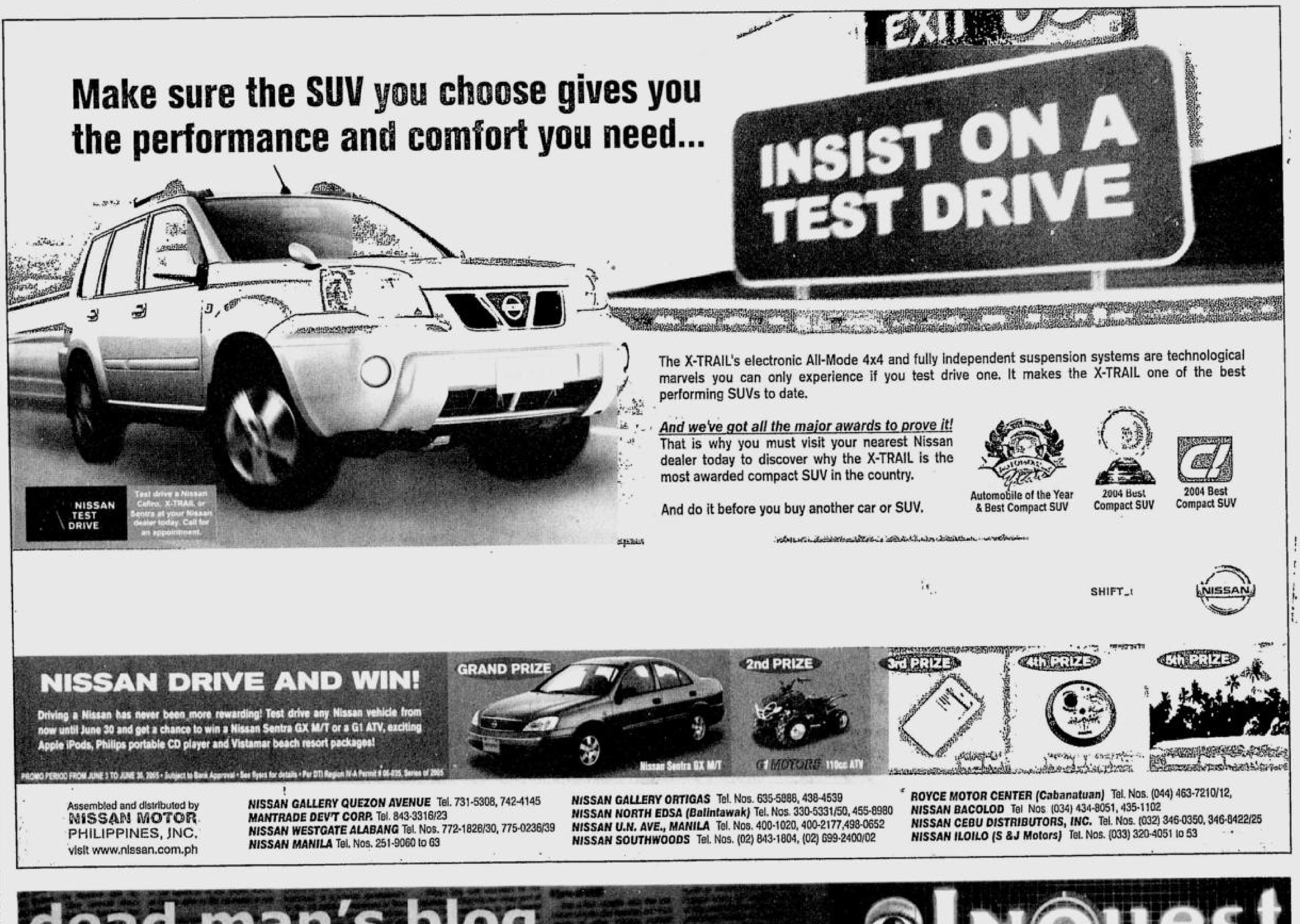

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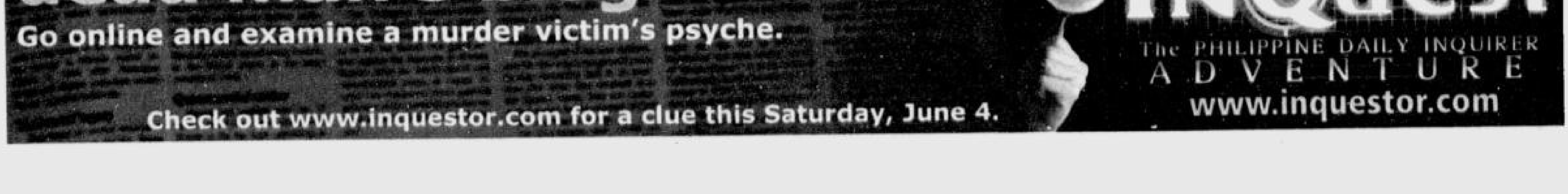

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Nadal, Federer tangle in dream semis duel

NIKOLAY Davydenko of Russia jubilates after winning against Tommy Robredo of Spain. AFP

PARIS—Built like a boxer rather than a tennis player, Rafael Nadal is listed at 165 lb in the annual ATP Tour media guide but actually weighs nearly 190.

Just a growing boy, the Mallorcan says his muscular physique isn't the result of any secret Mediterranean diet.

"I eat just normally," Nadal says. "If you give me olives, I eat olives. Yesterday I ate Haagen-Dazs ice cream. I don't have anything out of the ordinary."

On Friday, the French Open will determine whether olives and ice cream are the recipe for beating Roger Federer.

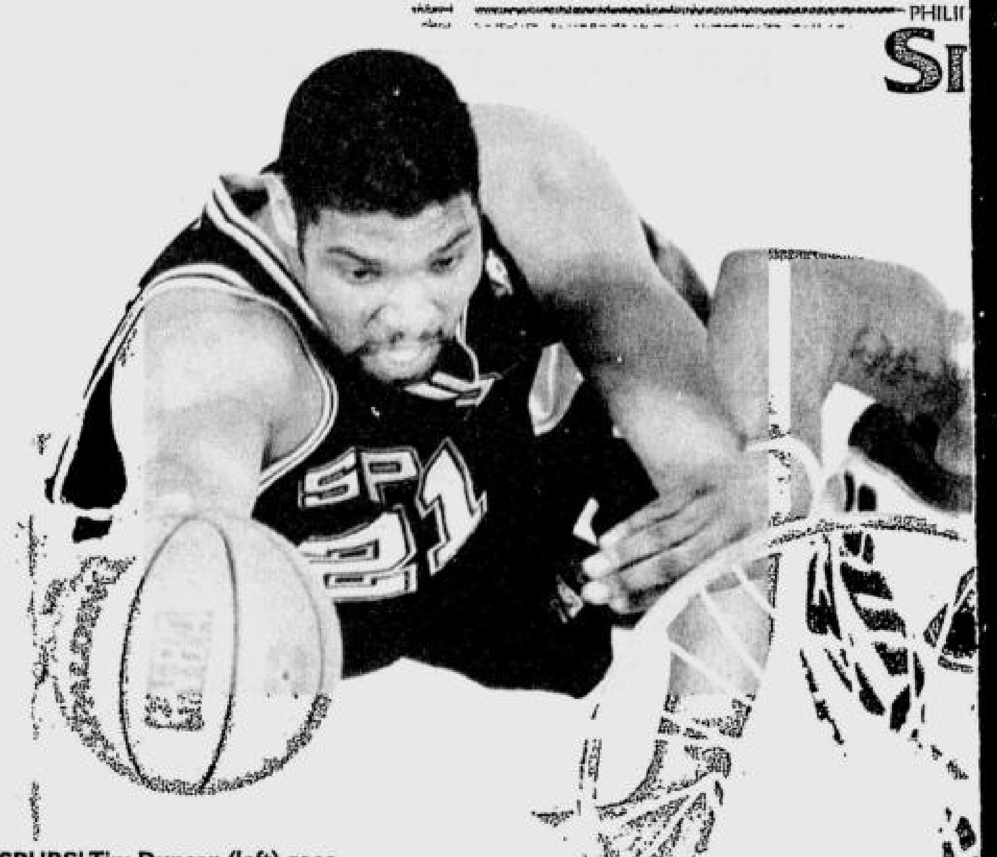
Nadal and Federer meet in a semifinal showdown touted as the match of the tournament, if not the year. It features the game's top two players in peak form: Federer, entrenched at No. 1 and bidding to complete a career Grand Slam at age 23; and Nadal, the teen sensation who has won five tournaments this year and emerged as the biggest threat to Federer's reign.

"This is a match where I'd like to have fun," said Nadal, who turns 19 Friday. "I think I might be able to win."

The other semifinal features two first-time Grand Slam semifinalists: unseeded Argentine Mariano Puerta and No. 12 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia.

Puerta, back on the tour following a nine-month doping suspension, advanced by beating compatriot Guillermo Canas, 6-2, 3-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Davydenko edged Tommy Robredo.

Federer-Nadal is a rematch of the final in Key Biscayne, when Nadal took the first two sets, led 4-1 in the third and was twice two points from victory before Federer rallied to win. *AP*



SPURS' Tim Duncan (left) goes to the basket for two points against Suns' Amare Stoudemire. REUTERS

Pierce eyes finals vs Russian

PARIS—Both former champions, both returning from lingering injuries, Mary Pierce and Justine Henin-Hardenne dream of meeting in Saturday's French Open final.

To reach that Roland Garros showdown would cap a fairytale return for 30-year-old Pierce, the last Frenchwoman to win her home grand slam when she triumphed five years ago.

The intervening years have not been kind to the Florida-based player who has endured a succession of injuries and loss of form. Pierce has not reached the semifinals of a grand slam since her glorious run in Paris in 2000.

Henin-Hardenne, champion in 2003, returned to tennis in April after missing the early months of the year with a knee fracture. Last year, the Belgian was plagued by a mystery viral illness which sapped her of energy.

A Pierce versus Henin-Hardenne final would be the perfect scenario for Roland Garros fans, but first both have work to do in Thursday's semis.

Russia's Elena Likhovtseva stands in the way of Pierce reaching her third final on Paris clay.

"I played Elena just a couple of weeks ago in Berlin and I won in two sets pretty easily, but I'm definitely expecting a very difficult match," said Pierce, the 21st seed.

Former world No. 1 Henin-Hardenne will also be the favorite when she steps on to center court to face another Russian, Nadia Petrova.

Henin-Hardenne is undefeated on clay this season and on a 22-match winning streak. *Reuters*

TOUR'S MEMORIAL

Tiger tries to get back

DUBLIN, Ohio—Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Ernie Els headline the field for the PGA Tour's Memorial, where many in the star-studded cast will already have one eye on the upcoming US Open.

Phil Mickelson decided to skip the Jack Nicklaus-hosted Memorial to practice at the US Open venue of Pinehurst.

But world No. 1 Singh, three-time champion Woods and defending champion Els are hoping to build momentum here heading into the second major championship of the season.

"I'm here to try and win and hopefully come out of this week positively, so I'll be in good standing going into the US Open," Woods said. "You have to hit every single shot on this course, and the majority of winners here are major championship winners, too."

Only one winner of the Memorial in the past 12 years, Kenny Perry in 2003, does not also have a major on his resumé.

REUTERS

WOODS: I'm here to try and win.

This week's tournament marks Woods' first start since he missed the cut at the Byron Nelson Championship last month, and it will be his only appearance before Pinehurst, because he will follow his usual schedule of taking the week off before a major.

Els will play next week to ensure he is tournament-fit by the time he gets to Pinehurst. Last year he over-did it, playing fiv
fore the US Ope
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday June 3, 2005

Laura_Jean
Who_is_she?
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4.25.PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10.PM)	Meteor Garden Full Edition (5.35.PM)		TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Cupids	Stained Glass	24			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Flame Of Recca	Full House		24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		All About Eve	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Temptation Island 3		The OC		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Shakey's V-League		Asian X-Tour			TM-9 Ball		IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Jack In The Box				Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		David Blaine Vertigo		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season II)		Boomtown		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		Messiah III: The Promise			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Police Stop		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live-		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		The Last Voices From Heaven				Tribal Voice		Egypt Detectives	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Capturing The Killer Croc		Ultimate Crocodile	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
HBO	Reckless Kelly (2.40.PM)			Abuse Of Power			The Freshman (5.40.PM)				Rapid Exchange (7.25.PM)			S.W.A.T				Eraser (10.55PM)	
Star Movies			Wildfire 7 (3.40.PM)			Dick Tracy (5.15.PM)				Bringing Down The House (7:10.PM)				The Guru			Garage Days (10.45PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Codename Kids Next Door	Premiere	Toon Pick	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN		World Tenpin Masters '05		UCA Nhscc Super Varsity Coed Cheerleading	NBA Anthology Down Low Life In the D-League	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	LPGA Corning Classic					Marshall's World Skating Chall			Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '04 Trick Shot Magic NV, USA		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Trouble With Harry			Lucky 7 (4.15.PM)			Gunfighter's Moon (5.45 PM)			The Addams Family (7.15.PM)				The Evil That Men Do			American Pie The Wedding		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Judging Amy		Dummy			Wife Swap (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crime Night	

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Spurs eclipse Suns, gain NBA finals

TORONTO—Tim Duncan nailed 31 points and snared 15 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs held off a furious comeback bid by the Phoenix Suns to claim a 101-95 road victory on Wednesday and book their place in the NBA finals.

Manu Ginobili added 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists while Tony Parker chipped in with 18 points as San Antonio took the best-of-seven Western Conference finals 4-1 and returned to the championship series for the second time in three years.

The Spurs now await the winner of the Eastern Conference finals between the Detroit Pistons and Miami Heat, which is deadlocked at 2-2.

The finals are scheduled to begin on June 9.

"Persistence," the two-time NBA MVP Duncan said.

"These guys (the Suns) are an incredible offensive team.

"They can score and they kept scoring and kept on coming but we stuck with it and got the stops and continued to play hard."

Amare Stoudemire did his part to keep the Suns' championship dreams from setting, pouring in a playoff career-high 42 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and grabbing 16 rebounds.

NBA MVP Steve Nash had 21 points and 10 assists while Joe Johnson had 14 points.

No team has ever rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a conference championship but after a victory in Game Four and playing at home in Game Five, the Suns had their sights set on making history.

"It's always frustrating when you lose," Nash said.

"You always feel frustrated when you get beat and we got beat by a team that is a little more seasoned than we are.

"I really didn't play well enough in the second half for us to win."

With Stoudemire and Nash leading the way, the Suns led 50-49 going into the intermission.

However, the Spurs responded with a 20-6 run to start the third quarter and opened up a 69-56 lead to silence the Phoenix crowd.

While the Spurs could hardly miss, the Suns went stone cold and missed 12 of their first 14 shots to start the half.

The Suns, however, refused to fade away and staged one final rally in the fourth quarter, trimming the deficit to 93-90 with just under three minutes to play.

That would be as close as the Suns would get, Duncan and Parker each finding the bucket to restore a comfortable 97-90 lead with the final minute ticking off the clock.

"For us to win we had to make some stops because we are not as good as them offensively," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

"We are a little better than them defensively and we made some stops in the fourth quarter that allowed us to win." *Reuters*

DUNCAN hugs Suns' Steve Nash after Game 5 of the West Conference finals. REUTERS

on the prowl

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need to do to fix it, and I think that's very important mentally." One player hoping to build some momentum heading into Pinehurst is US veteran Davis Love.

Love's only major title came at the 1997 PGA Championship.

"The second one hasn't come yet," he continued. "They seem harder to get now, but I know experience-wise, length-wise, swing-wise, I can do it. I've just got to get in the right frame of mind and be healthy." The health part has been a problem for Love, who was hurt for much of last year. He finished third on the 2003 PGA Tour money list, but slipped to 10th last year and is currently 24th.

"I've had a bad disc in my neck since 2000," he said. "I've let it progressively get weaker, and I've had a lack of strength in my shoulder and arm," he said. "But in the last month I've gotten to where I'm feeling really good, and can start to see signs of some real golf shots under tough conditions." *AFP*

Comatose boxer shows recovery, no longer critical

LOS ANGELES—Mexican fighter Ruben Contreras was slowly being brought out of a medically induced coma on Wednesday, four days after suffering a serious head injury during a boxing match against American Brian Viloria.

CONTRERAS

Contreras was upgraded from critical to stable condition but remains on a ventilator in the intensive care unit at California Hospital Medical Center.

Doctors are being cautious about making any long-term prognosis until Contreras comes out of a comatose state, hospital spokesperson Katreena Salgado said on Wednesday.

"You could say he has improved because he is no longer in critical condition. But a brain injury is very unpredictable," Salgado said.

"He has not worsened. He has not deteriorated. He is being weaned off the medication." The 32-year-old Contreras was put in a drug-induced coma after undergoing 2 1/2 hours of surgery on Saturday to stop bleeding and relieve pressure from around his brain.

Contreras, who was bleeding from the nose and mouth, decided to stop boxing in the sixth round of his fight complaining of a headache. *AFP*

Valencia thwarts Cavite dribblers

TAGAYTAY City—Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest nipped host Cavite, 63-61, Wednesday as it began its northern swing in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Complex here.

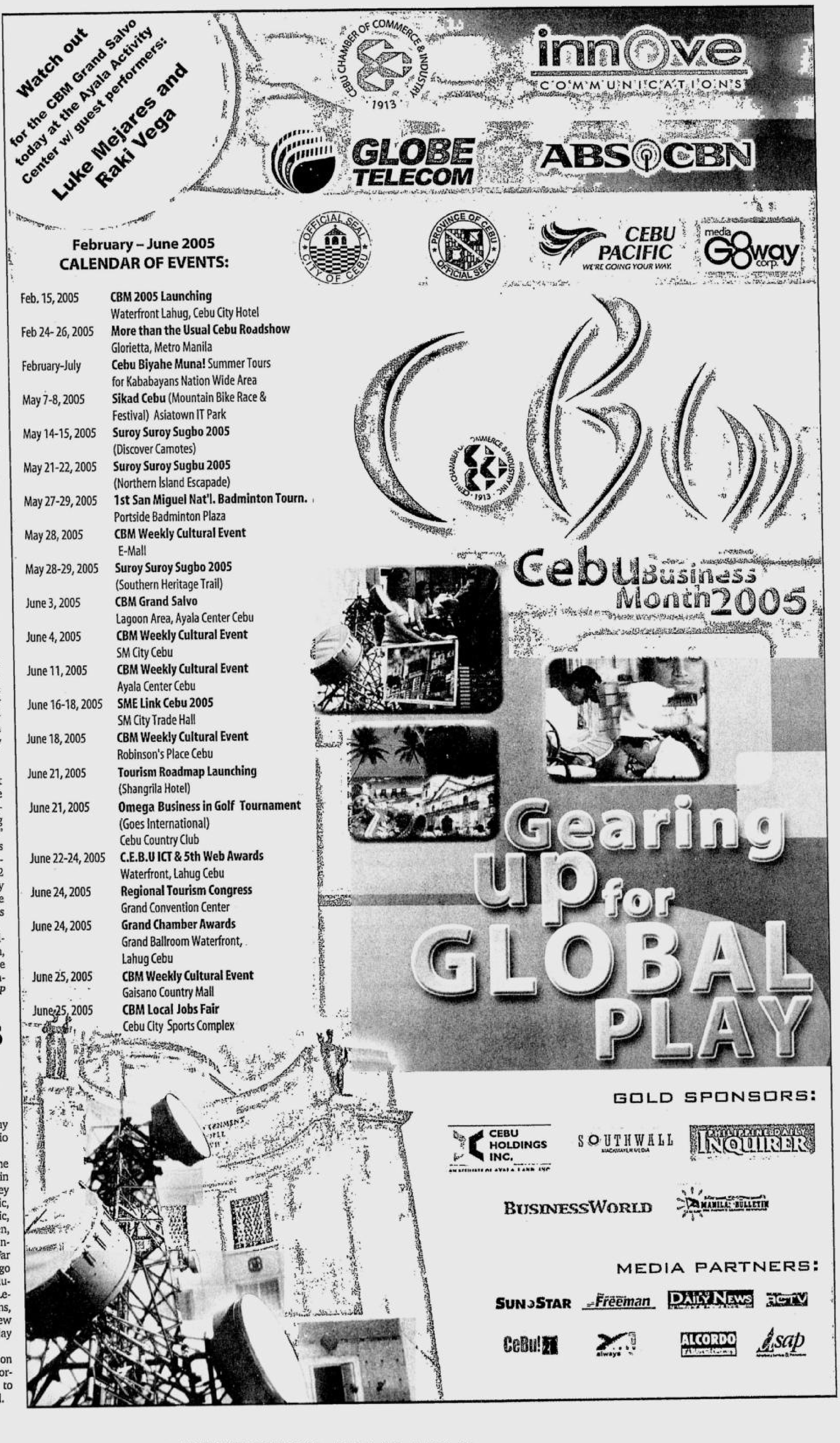
Valencia raced to a 56-49 lead going into the final period and then held off a big comeback by the Far Eastern Insurance-backed Caviteños to improve its record to 1-2.

"It feels good to have my first victory in the north," said Valencia coach Arvin Marinez.

Valencia seeks its second win when it plays Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.'s Baguio Lions at 6 p.m. today at the UB gym in Baguio City.

The Lions fell to the Parañaque Jets last week in their debut in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Prime Channel, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza Cebu.

Valencia capitalized on Cavite's sloppy plays, scoring 16 turnover points to take a 39-33 halftime lead.



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Luke Mejares and Raki Vega

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Feb. 15, 2005	**CBM 2005 Launching** Waterfront Lahug, Cebu City Hotel
Feb 24- 26, 2005	**More than the Usual Cebu Roadshow** Glorietta, Metro Manila
February-July	**Cebu Biyahe Muna!** Summer Tours for Kababayans Nation Wide Area
May 7-8, 2005	**Sikad Cebu** (Mountain Bike Race & Festival) Asiatown IT Park
May 14-15, 2005	**Suroy Suroy Sugbo 2005** (Discover Camotes)
May 21-22, 2005	**Suroy Suroy Sugbu 2005** (Northern Island Escapade)
May 27-29, 2005	**1st San Miguel Nat'l. Badminton Tourn.** Portside Badminton Plaza
May 28, 2005	**CBM Weekly Cultural Event** E-Mall
May 28-29, 2005	**Suroy Suroy Sugbo 2005** (Southern Heritage Trail)
June 3, 2005	**CBM Grand Salvo** Lagoon Area, Ayala Center Cebu
June 4, 2005	**CBM Weekly Cultural Event** SM City Cebu
June 11, 2005	**CBM Weekly Cultural Event** Ayala Center Cebu
June 16-18, 2005	**SME Link Cebu 2005** SM City Trade Hall
June 18, 2005	**CBM Weekly Cultural Event** Robinson's Place Cebu
June 21, 2005	**Tourism Roadmap Launching** (Shangrila Hotel)
June 21, 2005	**Omega Business in Golf Tournament** (Goes International) Cebu Country Club
June 22-24, 2005	**C.E.B.U ICT & 5th Web Awards** Waterfront, Lahug Cebu
June 24, 2005	**Regional Tourism Congress** Grand Convention Center
June 24, 2005	**Grand Chamber Awards** Grand Ballroom Waterfront, Lahug Cebu
June 25, 2005	**CBM Weekly Cultural Event** Gaisano Country Mall
June 25, 2005	**CBM Local Jobs Fair** Cebu City Sports Complex

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 UNLEASHED	2 SIN CITY	3 MADAGASCAR	4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 THE SHUTTER	3 THX SIN CITY 12:30 3:00, 5:30 8:00 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 COACH CARTER	5 HOUSE OF WAX	6 MADAGASCAR	7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS EP. 3 10:35, 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35	2 SIN CITY 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX A LOT LIKE LOVE 2:05, 4:25, 6:45, 9:05, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 COACH CARTER 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MADAGASCAR 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SIN CITY 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MADAGASCAR	2 STAR WARS EP. 3	3 A LOT LIKE LOVE	4 COACH CARTER	5 SIN CITY		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SIN CITY	2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME	3 MADAGASCAR	4 STAR WARS EP. 3			

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②	Say That You Love Me
③	Star Wars Episode III
④	Shutter

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤	Madagascar
⑥	A Lot Like Love
⑦	Sin City

EVENTS! EVENTS!

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The fun is in the finds

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Album Promo Tour
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5 pm, Activity Center

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 SIN CITY
11:50 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50
3 COACH CARTER
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 MADAGASCAR
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 HOUSE OF WAX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 LA VISA LOCA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
9 UNLEASHED
12:05 2:35 5:05 7:35 10:00
10 SHUTTER
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SAY THAT LOVE ME
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2 HOUSE OF WAX
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3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
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7 STAR WARS Episode III
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METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

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8 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
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NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 STAR WARS Episode III
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3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
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5 COACH CARTER
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
6 RESERVE
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:10 8:30
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 SIN CITY
2 MADAGASCAR
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 STAR WARS Episode III
4 SIN CITY

CAINTA 240-4661

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MADAGASCAR

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5 HOUSE OF WAX

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1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 GUESS WHO?
5 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 MADAGASCAR
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 MADAGASCAR
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 STAR WARS Episode III

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 MADAGASCAR
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 UNLEASHED

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE JACKET
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 STAR WARS Episode III
6 MADAGASCAR

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MADAGASCAR
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 ONG BAK
6 LA VISA LOCA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
5 IN GOOD COMPANY
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

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V-LEAGUE TOURNEY

Tigresses rip Lady Tams

SANTO Tomas crushed Far Eastern University, 25-16, 25-17, 25-21, yesterday to get back on track in the Shakey's V-League at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Still missing ace spiker Joyce Pano, the Tigresses leaned on Mary Jean Balse and Kate Co Yu Kang, who combined for 31 points, to recover from their Monday setback to La Salle and level their win-loss slate at 3-3.

The victory, posted in just a little over an hour, also boosted the morale of the inaugural conference champs, who won just two of their five first round matches. The Tigresses also bowed to resurgent San Sebastian and newcomer Ateneo.

"Right now, we just want to win games and hopefully enter the final four," said UST coach August Santamaria, who is eyeing payback from the Katipunan-based squad on Saturday.

FEU, backstopped by Ruby May Rovira and Mary Ann Manalo, is still in fifth place with a 1-5 slate.

Earlier, La Salle posted its sixth-straight victory in as many games over winless Lyceum, 25-18, 25-21, 25-17, in the event backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC 13 and Jemah Television.

The Lady Archers, led by Skipper Maureen Penetrante and Michelle Carolino with 14 and 13 points, respectively, walked all over the hapless Lyceum in the absence of key player Joana Marie Fernando.

The Muralla-based squad, after entering the final four in the previous season, is hogging the cellar with a 0-7 card. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*

MIKASA
MIKASA
MIKASA
3
9
4

LORRAINE Zapata (left) and Kate Co Yu Kang of UST blocks an FEU spiker during their game won by the Tigresses yesterday.
RYAN LIM

Coseteng ready to face rivals in Touring Car

JODY Coseteng of the San Miguel Racing Team is ready to face his challengers this weekend in Rounds 3 and 4 of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Despite the maximum weight penalty due to his big win in the last race, Coseteng sees a smooth run aboard his Honda Civic SIR 2000 model. And with the all-out support of San Miguel Corporation, he eyes nothing but a sweep to preserve solo leadership and boost his chances for a fourth straight crown.

"The car is prepared, the tune-up was excellent," said Coseteng, who's also backed by San Mig Strong Ice. "That's why we are so excited and enthusiastic about this weekend's race. We're not discounting human error, but the team is focused on nothing but victory."

He currently holds 27 points after finishing second in the first race and ruling the final race in the kickoff leg last April.

For every race won, a driver is given a 10-kilo penalty to even up the competition. Coseteng, however, has already reached the 50-kilo maximum penalty for being the reigning champ and his big win in the last race.

But that's not going to be a big handicap for Coseteng whose game plan is to claim the pole position in the qualifying race and pull ahead of his rivals at the start of race proper.

"I just hope my game plan works to avoid getting tangled up or figure in any spill or collision with any of the drivers," said Coseteng. "They (rivals) are doing much better this year, excellent driving skills would not be enough assurance to win. But we're ready to face the challenge."

COSETENG (16) in his Honda Civic SIR shows the way in a recent race.

New cage body to seek Fiba recognition

RETIRED police General Edgardo Aglipay and the major stakeholders have started finalizing the articles of incorporation of the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., the new cage body which will seek recognition from the international basketball federation (Fiba).

The group, whose membership Aglipay said would number to 11 counting one "basketball aficionado," has the next six days to come up with the articles and a new set of constitution and by-laws to be presented to the Fiba for recognition.

"We would like to spell out participation of all basketball clubs in the country," Aglipay, the vice president of the Philippine Badminton Association, told the Inquirer over the phone. "Our long-term vision is to get the citizenry's participation to regain the country's past glory (in the sport)."

Aglipay was named head of a special committee created by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco for the transfer of powers and representation from the suspended Basketball Association of the Philippines to the PBFI. *Musong R. Castillo*

Strongest RP team vies in Asian Tour

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I HAVE no doubt that our billiards players will repeat as the best in the San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour which holds its Manila leg starting today.

Already the winners of two previous legs this year (Gandy Valle of Davao City won the opening leg in Singapore and Efren "Bata" Reyes topped the second in Jakarta) while losing only the third leg (to Taiwanese ace Yang Ching-shun in Kaohsiung), the Filipino pool pros are the prohibitive picks to win the fourth and final leg at the Robinsons Galleria this afternoon.

Last year, the Philippines dominated the circuit when former world champion Bata Reyes won three legs of the five-leg series organized by ESPN Star Sports.

Reyes, who is already 50 years old but still a most dominant force in billiards, will lead the RP team.

Joining Reyes, last year's leading money winner in the international circuit, will be his longtime partner Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who is fresh from a runner-up finish in the recent Hope All-Filipino Open in Manila; and fellow veteran internationalists Gandy Valle, Antonio Lining, Ramil Gallego and former Joss NE Tour "Rookie of the Year" Ronnie Alcano.

In the Manila leg, Reyes will be trading shots with the top pool pros from Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Indonesia. According to Reyes, it is still the Taiwanese delegation that will give the Filipinos plenty of trouble, mentioning in particular 2000 World Pool champion Chao Fong-pang, the "Son of Pool" Yang Ching-shun and teenage "giant killer" Wu Chia-ching.

Of the six Filipino bets, the player to watch is 32-year-old Alcano, who made the team via a qualifying tournament organized by Puyat Sports under the auspices of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines. Alcano is the only local player who has beaten Reyes in rotation, the toughest game in billiards.

* * *

FG DESERVES A PAT ON THE BACK. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo should be congratulated for appointing sports patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat to bankroll the training and preparation of the country's billiards team for this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Mr. Arroyo's decision to appoint Puyat is a wise move, a perfect choice, if I may add, because Putch is largely responsible for promoting and developing billiards in the Philippines. Since the 1980s, Putch and his elder brother Popit have sponsored the country's top players like Reyes, Bustamante and reigning world pool champion Alex Pagulayan.

For this year's SEA Games, Putch has submitted not only his training programs for the biennial meet but also a breakdown of the team's expenses so that the First Gentleman Foundation will know where and how the money is being spent to prepare a truly competitive national team.

With still seven months to go before the SEA Games, Putch has already disbursed P997,530.25 out of the total amount of P1 million he was committed to fund the men's and women's teams. And although he was expecting to spend more than P1 million for the men's and women's teams, Putch was still committing himself to provide whatever additional funding is necessary to fully prepare the billiards players for the regional meet.

Not only that. Putch has also informed former Philippine Sports Commission chair and now FG Foundation director Carlos "Butch" Tuason of his training program.

Said Putch: "From the time the FG appointed me to bankroll the players' training in early February, the BSCP officials headed by Mr. Ernesto Fajardo and myself decided that the best training we can give our players is to expose them to actual tournaments where they will compete against their counterparts in both local and international competitions. We also decided to rate the players in some events and adopted a similar ratings system now being used by APBU (Billiards Players Union) in determining those who will be seeded in the world championship in July."

For the men, the highest ranked players will join seeded players Reyes, Bustamante and Pagulayan in the SEA Games.

For the women, the members of the team will be selected from those with the highest ratings after six local tournaments.

Inheritance or Nuisance?

by Kathleen F. Siongco

The following scene may be familiar to you: the head of a family dies without leaving formal instructions about bequeathing his/her properties. Soon, family members who only just stood together in grief are arguing over who gets what.

What I've just described doesn't simply happen in the movies – for sure, a lot of you have experienced or known something like it. Just change a few details: maybe add to the plot a grand entrance of the dead man's mistress or how about a long-lost *anak sa labas* who mysteriously surfaces to stake his/her claim?

When my own mother's condition turned for the worse – and because she didn't have a will – I volunteered (none of my sisters wanted to do it) to talk with her about her last wishes. Some Filipinos may find it morbid, but to us, it was important that we knew of her decisions to be able to implement them. I asked her about her preferred funeral arrangements, her insurance policies and beneficiaries, her bank accounts, her properties, her valuables (like, was there a specific piece of jewelry that she wanted our youngest, who was then a mere teen, to get?) and so on. And so she passed on – our beloved mother – sans a will and, I hope, with the thought that everything's going to be okay, that her daughters won't ever fight over her legacy.

IF THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

But alas, not all families are blessed with the closeness my sisters and I share. In fact, for some, the inheritance squabble starts even before the concerned person dies. There are actual cases of siblings suing each other or going to the extent of excluding their surviving parent. Some even resort to falsifying documents and physical violence. Sadly, some families end up divided by such irreparable damage. Oh how the deceased must be turning over in his/her grave! After a lifetime of hard work to give the family a life of comfort, suddenly, all they share is animosity and greed.

Because the Filipino family is really a large extended kin that includes parents, siblings, grandparents, in-laws, aunts, uncles, as well as first, second and third cousins (not to mention those who are unofficially *na-ampon* into the family), not leaving a will can turn ugly. And you'd think that people belonging to a known close-knit race can settle such matters easily without formal documentation and appropriation.

Unlike those who belong to the upper class, the average Filipino is not into making and leaving a final will and testament. Here, it is commonly assumed that the concerned descendants will sort things out themselves and divide the assets accordingly. But, as I've said, since this is almost always not carried out without fighting or bickering, it's best to draw up a will so that all is accounted for and everybody gets what they deserve.

THE 'ILLS' OF BEING ILLEGITIMATE

And as the typical Filipino extended family may often have at least one or two illegitimate members, it's probably wise to think about them too. Illegitimate children have a right to the estate of their dead parent, may they be estranged from them or not.

As stipulated in Article 176 of the Family Code, an illegitimate child is considered a legal heir but is only entitled to one half (1/2) of the share of a legitimate child. This is quite unfortunate for a child whose only fault is being born out of wedlock, but I guess the law thought it best to make a distinction.

On print, this ruling looks uncomplicated. But more often than not, the legitimate offspring would rather that the illegitimate siblings not get anything at all. It's not surprising to see supposedly well-bred individuals making a spectacle of themselves in court over inheritance.

THE WILL TO LEAVE

As so, to avoid any future ruckus, it's best to draw up a will, even an informal one that you know your family will honor. And don't think that you have to be old and ill before you think about making one. Even those who appear young and healthy die too (in fact it's more critical for these types to have a will as they probably have young children who'd still need looking after upon their death). Death is something everybody cannot avoid but you can spare your heirs from an inheritance commotion after you've moved on by preparing for it today.

Set aside time to think about and jot down everything you own: make an inventory of major assets like real estate property, money (including outstanding debts) stocks/bonds, jewelry, family heirlooms down to books, clothes, photos and pets (hey, you can never tell if your relatives are beyond squabbling over these "trivial" things).

Once you've determined all your property, try to assign which stuff goes to whom (remember, don't exclude illegitimate members; include loyal friends as well). Appoint an executor (can be a lawyer friend or a trusted family member) to be in charge of distributing everything. Name a guardian for your children or grandchildren who are under your care. Indicate preferred conditions to anticipate future events like in case a beneficiary changes his/her marital status or dies, or if a new family member is born.

After getting it notarized and before putting it in a sealed envelope, make copies and give one to your lawyer along with instructions as to where the original is placed. To help you further, you can hire an estate-planning attorney, consult friends who have drawn up their wills, browse the internet or use available software. Whatever route you decide to take, just make sure your end product is as thorough as possible (though you can make amendments regularly).

The bottom line is, no matter how you choose to do it, it's best to draft your will at the soonest possible time. Try not to view it as a premonition of your dreaded end but as a way to prevent any dispute… or simply as a loving gesture of taking care of every member of your family from where you are in the afterlife.

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SPORTS

PBC tilt starts; Zulkifli heads field

ASIA'S Bowler of the Year Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia, four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and 2003 bowler of the year Liza del Rosario head a stellar cast vying in the 34th PBC Euro-Med International Bowling Championships which rolls off today at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque.

The tournament, expected to be a preview of the competition in the Southeast Asian Games in November, starts with a ceremony at 5 p.m.

National teams from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam as well as toponotch bowlers from Guam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, China and Japan are competing in the event which offers more than P1 million in cash prizes.

Chester King, who recently won the Euro-Med Storm Challenge at Pearl, will lead the RP men's team along with Nepomuceno, while Del Rosario stands at the vanguard of the women's squad.

Competitions will be in five categories—Open Graded, Associate, Junior, Senior and the Masters.

The top qualifiers in each category will receive a bowling ball from Bowlmart Pro Shops, with the bowler who shoots a perfect game getting P100,000 from Standard Insurance.

The tournament, which ends on June 17, also serves as qualifier for the Philippine leg of the Asian Bowling Federation Tour. It is backed by Euro-Med as title sponsor and Wave, Standard Insurance, Storm, Casino Filipino, Accel, Bowlmart as major sponsors.

Hair loss solutions?
"Svenson worked for me!"

"In everything I do, my motto is: better to try than do nothing. That's my attitude as a sportsman and as an actor. That's also how I dealt with my hair loss. I was looking for ways to keep my hair from thinning out. Other methods failed me before but when I read about Svenson, I just had to give it a try. Through their treatments, my thinning hair became thicker and it's starting to grow evenly. People who've seen me before are surprised with how my hair looks now. I'm very thankful to Svenson and I always recommend them. It really worked for me and it will work for you!"

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SAMSUNG TOUR

Saragosa fires 70, storms in front by seven

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Boyet Saragosa opened with three consecutive birdies and left his rivals fighting for second place as he stormed ahead by seven strokes after the third round of the Samsung Amateur Tour yesterday at the Royal Northwoods Golf and Country Club here.

A double bogey-7 on the fifth failed to dampen the spirit of Saragoza, who submitted a two-under 70 after a 68 on Tuesday for a three-day total of 212, four-under over the Graham Marsh-designed course.

Sharing second place and joining Saragosa in the final round are Rufino Bayron, Mario Labajo and Omar Dungca who have 219 totals.

The favored Kim Chang-hoi was joined by two others in fifth spot at 221.

Labajo took scoring honors for the day with a 69 while Bayron and club bet Dungca had a 71 and 73, respectively, in the event also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Kim, his bid for a seat in the national grand finals which he topped last February at Mt. Malarayat stymied by Saragosa's solid form, struggled in the back nine and had a 73 for 221, the same totals of first round co-leader Anthony Victoria (74) and Joseph Labajo (72).

The 36-hole division competitions got off to an exciting start as club champion Rodel Mangulabnan sizzled with a 70 for a two-shot lead over Joy Huerva in Class A while Chan Woo Park was the provisional leader by one stroke in Class B over Simeon Jumaquio and Lloyd Maliwat.

Hitting the turn with a 35, Saragosa caught fire anew with birdies on Nos. 11, 13, 15 and 16 against a bogey on the 14th to be at four under. He was already seven up on Dungca and nine ahead of Bayron and Labajo at that point.

SARAGOZA: Despite two late bogeys

But Saragosa bogeyed the last two holes like Dungca, and Bayron made two pars and Labajo finished with a birdie and a par.

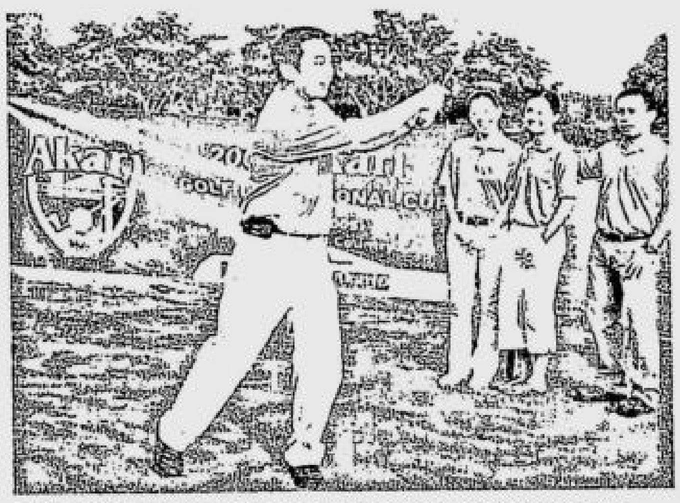
Pueblo de Oro hosts the next leg in Cagayan de Oro on June 29-July 2, then the Tour proceeds to Camp John Hay in Baguio on Aug. 30-Sept. 2, Riviera on Oct. 10-13 and then Ayala Greenfield on Nov. 15-18. For inquiries, please call 635-0010.

Monsalve tops Akari tourney

MARIO Monsalve bucked the rains on his homeward trip and came through with a net 70 to win the overall crown in the first Akari Golf Invitational Cup at Sta. Elena in Cabuyao, Laguna, last Wednesday.

Monsalve actually wound up tied with sportscaster Anthony Suntay, who also carded a net 70, but took the top honors with eight pars. He strung up nines of 38-43 for an 81 and a 70 under the System-36 format of the event, which drew some of the country's top golfing architects and engineers.

Suntay settled for the Class A crown with a gross score of 89 from rounds of 45-44, beating Henry Tan (71) and Star sports editor Lito Tacujan, who also had a 71 in the tournament sponsored by top lighting firm Akari to foster camaraderie among its clients, friends and backers.


CARLSON Trading's Carter Tiu hits the ceremonial drive.

Carter Tiu, head of projects group of Carlson Trading, exclusive distributor of Akari lights in the country, hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the 18-hole tournament while Brian Wald, president of Fulham Lighting, led the guests during the awards rites.

Jess Santos and *balikbayan* Rey Tacujan both fired 75s but the former won the Class B crown with two pars.

Joseph Mendoza finished third with a 76.

Vicente Rodriguez shot a net 81 to rule Class C with Rey Pua and Albert Uy finishing second and third with 82 and 83, respectively.

A consistent supporter of RP sports, Akari has been involved in badminton, taekwondo, basketball and the ongoing PBA mall tour at various SM malls.

Loang rules San Beda law golf

CYNTHIA Loang netted 46 points on a gross score of 78 to top the Lambda Rho Beta Cup hosted by the San Beda Law Golf Club Inc. at the Valley Golf and Country Club's Executive course in Antipolo City recently.

Loang won the overall plum by two points over Garry de Guzman who settled for the Class A title on a gross of 80. Angelito Maraña (42) and Harry Paltongan (42) wound up second and third, respectively, in Class A.

Joel Barrameda beat Boy Manzano on a countback for the Class B title after both turned in identical 35 points on 89 gross scores. Manny Magnaye finished third with 33.

Raul Creencia (30) topped Class C over Jun Bohol (30) and Jun Baldovino (29).

In the guest division, Romeo Avila ruled Class A over Zardy Abillera with net 70 and Robert Limcaco won Class B with a net 73.

Bohol topped the most acurate drive, Manny Magnaye the longest drive, and Sonny Barros the nearest the pin contests.

Alcantara, Solon pull off double victories

SURIGAO CITY—Francis Casey Alcantara of Cagayan de Oro edged Juv Alban, 7-6, 6-4, for the boys' 18-under crown then routed Reymond Padigos, 6-2, 6-2, in the 16-under finals at the close of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop at the Surigao Tennis Club here. Alcantara, a member of last year's Milo-RP team that won honors in Malaysia, equaled the feat of Dumaguete's Macey Solon who also won two titles following a 6-3, 6-3 trouncing of Kristel Buenacosa in the girls' 16-under final and a 6-3, 6-1 beating of Steffi Dizon in the 18-under clash. Other division winners in the event organized by CTW, supported by adidas and sanctioned by Philta, were Kurt Gerapusco of South Cotabato in the unisex 10-under; Mico Cantillo in the boys' 12-under; June Ryan Montalbo in the 14-under; Cindy Gerapusco in the girls' 12-under; and Kristel Buenacosa in the 14-under.

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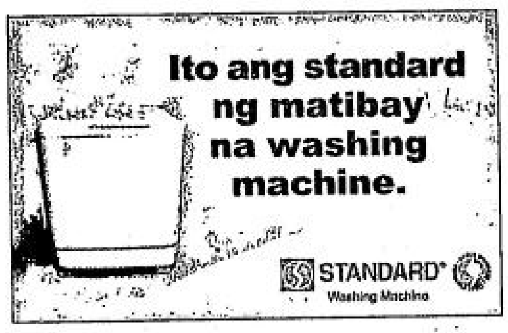
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JUDY ANN Santos

CONCIO: It's ignorance.

Stars meet taxmen

Network sends talents to BIR briefing

By Marinel R. Cruz

BACOLOD CITY—"We take care of our talents' tax obligations. We make sure everything is in order," said Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president and head of Entertainment, a week after the Bureau of Internal Revenue filed a tax evasion case against actress Judy Ann Santos.

The case, filed before the Department of Justice on May 19, said Judy Ann "underdeclared" her income in 2002 by P6.7 million.

Traumatic

The actress, who played the lead character in the recently concluded series "Krystala," is not an exclusive talent of the network, and is managed by veteran entertainment columnist Alfie Lorenzo.

"I called [vice president for Talent Development] Mariole Alberto because I wanted to make sure that the finances of our talents were okay. A court case can be very traumatic to young talents," Concio told a group of entertainment writers here.

Judy Ann is the third show biz celebrity to be slapped with tax evasion charges this year, following actor-TV host Richard Gomez and singer Regine Velasquez.

"I must admit that, even I, [when I was] a fresh graduate, didn't know about these things," Concio pointed out. "What if you don't have an accountant? You need a discerning, caring, responsible adult to teach you."

She added: "It's not about the entertainers not wanting to pay up. It's mostly ignorance of procedure and of BIR regulations."

This was why, Concio said, the network sent some of its talents to the briefing that BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno arranged last May 20 to educate TV and movie professionals about tax obligations.

"Just recently, I got a text message from Carlos Agassi," Concio related. "He said he learned a lot from the discussions with the BIR."

Concio, a former actress, said she did not think the BIR was only after show biz celebrities. "It's just that... if you want to send a message across effectively, [you should] use somebody who is high profile. I read in the papers that after the charges against *artistas* were filed, the BIR's collection in April increased.

"We should all be responsible [citizens]," she said. "We want so much from the government, but we also have to do our share."

Same caution

Concio said she and her staff applied the same caution and sensibility when selecting stories for "Maalala Mo Kaya," Philippine television's longest-running drama anthology, which she has hosted for 14 years (she has been with the network for 18).

"If we feel that a third party is bound to complain, we'd rather not touch the story," she explained. "There were some lapses in the past [but] it was never the staff's intention to hurt people."

Censors have new job

LAGUARDIA

ASIDE from rating movies and TV shows, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board is now also tasked with classifying programs recorded in VCD and DVD formats.

"The MTRCB is [working] in close coordination with the Optical Media Board [on this undertaking]," Censors Chair Marissa Laguardia told Inquirer Entertainment in an exclusive interview on Wednesday in her Quezon City office. "We are currently on a dry run," she added.

According to Sec. 27 of Republic Act 9239 (or Optical Media Act of 2003), it is the function of the MTRCB to "classify for audience suitability... motion pictures and cinematographic works in optical media, as well as related publicity materials.

Delay costs

Laguardia said: "We're thinking of ways to speed up the process of classifying VCDs and DVDs. We don't want to cause delay of the release of these videos, because we're also very concerned with piracy. *Konting* delay *lang, andyan na ang mga pirata.*"

These materials according to OMB Chair Edu Manzano, include movies, documentaries and shows made for television, and released on VCD and DVD for commercial distribution.

Laguardia said fighting piracy is still the job of the OMB. "But the Board would like to help him in any way," Laguardia added.

On 'the' memo

The Censors chief said she was "surprised" at people's reaction to the controversial memorandum she released last week. "So I immediately met with some of my board members. They advised me to release another memo that would clarify the previous one."

The memo, dated May 17, required TV shows to submit materials to the MTRCB "for review and approval prior to telecast." Two days after it was released, Laguardia came out with another memo, which rescinded it.

The May 17 memo drew strong comments from various sectors, including Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño who demanded the abolition of the MTRCB.

"That's his opinion," Laguardia said of the proposal. "But as of now, I don't think the movie and TV industries are ready for that. I still think there should be a regulatory board to watch over these TV shows and films. And it doesn't have to be the MTRCB."

Wait and see

Laguardia said she has been invited by Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla to attend a Lower House "deliberation" on Monday, June 6. "I think we will discuss the reorganization of the MTRCB. Let's wait and see how the lawmakers will [handle] this. We're ready, anytime."

Marinel R. Cruz

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BAMBOO: Best Performance by a New Group for "Noypi"

Giants rule Awit

Big winners include Kitchie Nadal, South Border and Bamboo

SONY Music Philippines (SMP), Warner Music Philippines (WMP) and EMI artists walked away with most of the trophies in the recently concluded 18th Awit Awards held at the AFP Theatre.

The list of winners:

Best Performance by a Female Recording Artist: **Kitchie Nadal** for "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin" (WMP); Best Performance by a Male Recording Artist: **Artstrong**, "Jazzy Monday" (WMP) and **Gary Valenciano**, "How Did You Know" (Star Records); Best Performance by a Duet: **Jennylyn Mercado** and **Janno Gibbs**, "If I'm Not In Love With You" (GMA Records); Best Performance by a Group: **South Border**, "Rainbow" (SMP/Brown Hand Records).

Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist: **Mishka Adams**, "God Bless the Child" (Candid Records); Best Performance by a New Male Recording Artist: **Christian Bautista**, "The Way You Look at Me" (WMP);

Best Performance by a New Group: **Bamboo**, "Noypi" (EMI); Album of the Year: **"Episode III"** by South Border (SMP/Brown Hand Records).

Record of the Year: **"Christian Bautista"** (WMP); Song of the Year: **"Rainbow"** by South Border, composed by Jay Durias and Sharon Inductivo (SMP/Brown Hand Records); Best Ballad: **"Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin"** produced and composed by Jack Rufo and Kitchie Nadal (WMP);

Best Rock Song: **"Noypi"** produced and composed by Bamboo and Angee Rozul (EMI).

Best Inspirational/Religious Song: **"Rainbow"** produced and composed by Jay Durias and Sharon Inductivo (SMP/Brown Hand Records); Best Instrumental Performance: "Kahit Na Abril Parang Pasko Pa Rin," **Jay Gomez, Bong Rosario, Bobot Mabalot** and **Rommel Cruz** (Jesuit Communications Foundation); Best Alternative World Music: **"With You Around"** produced by Neil Gregorio and composed and performed by Artstrong (WMP).

Best Novelty Song: **"Babae Po Ako"** produced by Chito Ilagan, composed by Edwin Marollano and performed by Tuesday Vargas (EMI); Best Dance Song: **"The Show"** produced by South Border, composed by Jay Durias/Vincent Michael Alaras and performed by South Border; Best Christmas Song: **"Kapuso sa Pasko"** produced and composed by Vehnee Saturno and performed by the GMA Records artists; Best Rap Song: **"Jazzy Monday"** produced by Artstrong Clarion/Neil Gregorio and composed and performed by Artstrong (WMP).

Best Jazz Recording: **"Jazzy Monday"** produced by Artstrong Clarion and Neil Gregorio, composed and performed by Artstrong (WMP);

Best R&B Song: **"The Show"** produced,

GIANTS/A2-2

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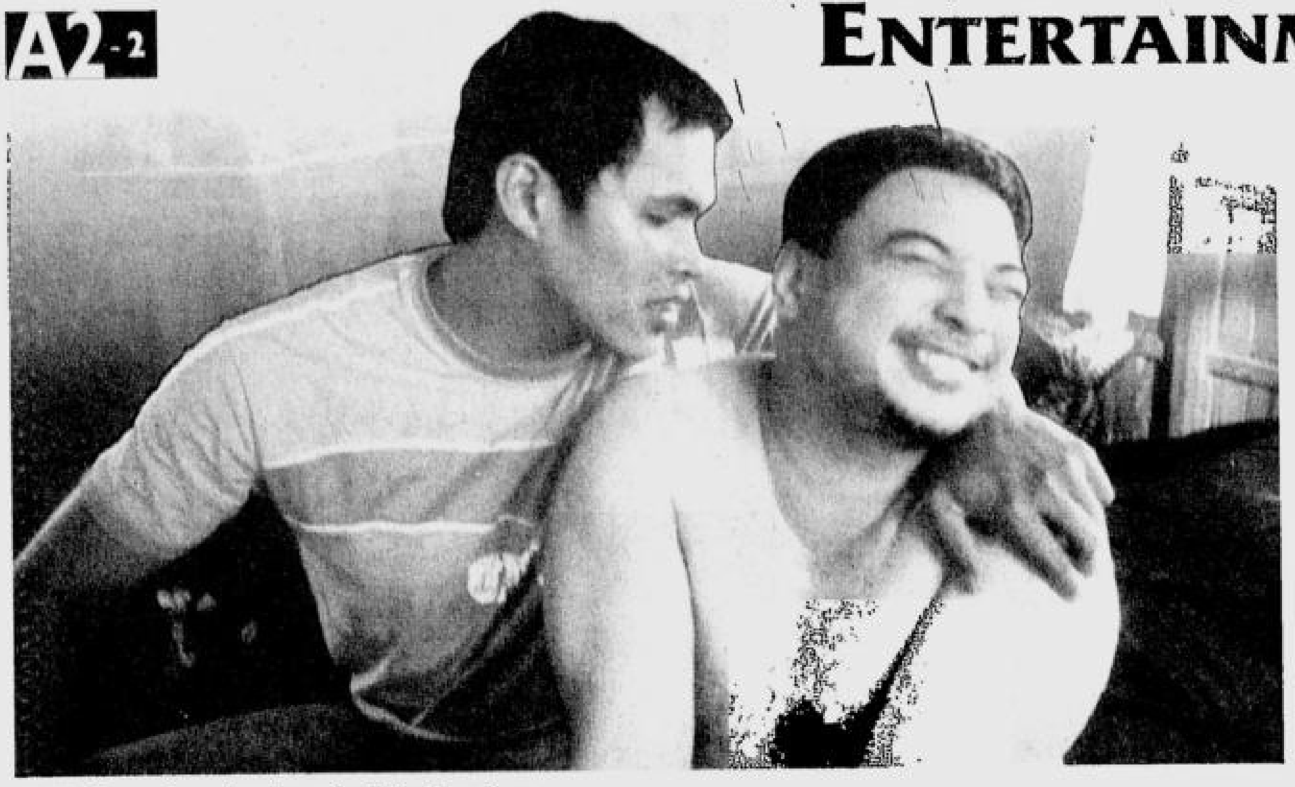

RICKY Davao has played nearly all shades of gay.

Gay roles never scared Ricky Davao

RICKY Davao tackles another gay role in the adult romance-fantasy, "Mga Pusang Gala (Stray Cats)," which opened the ongoing Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at Gateway Cineplex in Cubao.

He plays Boyet, a pulp fiction novelist approaching midlife, in this maiden offering from Erasto Productions, an outfit put up by independent filmmaker Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil.

"I was playing gay roles, both in theater and television, when other actors stayed away from them. Now every other actor I know is dying to get such roles," Ricky says, grinning. His most memorable gay personas on film include Rosanna Roces' husband in "Ang Lalake sa Buhay ni Selya" and a closet queen/mama's boy in "American Adobo."

Boyet in "Pusa," the actor says, is a multi-faceted character. "He has a kept man, and adopts a boy whom he raises as his own. The movie shows that gays are quite capable of raising a family."

Ricky's Boyet is also buddy to Marta, a middle-aged advertising practitioner who rents the other half of his duplex. Their sex lives run parallel, drawing them closer especially as they fall routinely into romantic traps.

Playing Ricky's lover is ramp model and Body Shot winner Lauren Novero. Alchris Galaura, who got critical notice in "Ang Babae sa Breakwater," plays Boyet's adopted son. Irma Adlawan, another respected theater actor who appears occasionally on TV and film, plays the bosom friend.

"Mga Pusang Gala" is directed by Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil. Shot in digital camera, it will soon be transferred to film by MLR Films.

CLAUDINE Barretto: Dark horse

Big stars expected at Urian

CESAR Montano will perform with the internationally acclaimed Loboc Children's Choir of Bohol during the 28th Gawad Urian for excellence in filmmaking on Saturday, June 4, at the AFP Theater in Quezon City.

The awards are given by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, a society of the country's respected film critics. The colorful ceremonies, produced by APT Productions, will be telecast on Channel 9.

Montano has three Urian nominations in connection with his work as producer, director and actor of "Panaghoy sa Suba"— incidentally the movie with the biggest number of Urian nominations, including Best Picture, this year.

"Panaghoy," set in Bohol during the Second World War, uses songs performed by the Loboc Children's Choir as part of its musical scoring.

Also nominated for Best Picture are Olivia Lamasan's "Milan" (Star Cinema), Joel Lamangan's "Sabel" (Regal Films), and Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" (Paul Tanedo Inc.).

Musical numbers will likewise be rendered by Kyla, Vince and Duncan of South Border, Aiza Seguerra, Andrea del Rosario, Faith Cuneta, Kitchie Nadal, Hannah of Session Road, Radha and internationally renowned soprano Rachelle Gerodias.

Michael V, Janno Gibbs and Pia Guanio are the emcees.

Presenters include Judy Ann Santos, Lorna Tolentino, Richard Gomez, Snooky, and Jiro Manio.

Film editor Jess Navarro, who has won eight Urian awards since 1984, will receive the Natatanging Gawad for lifetime achievement.

Also expected to grace the ceremonies are Wendell Ramos, Dennis Trillo, Yul Servo, Jomari Yllana, Roeder, Iza Calsado, Ara Mina and Juliana Palermo.

Sponsors include Revicon Ion, Head and Shoulder, PLDT, Alaska, Procter & Gamble, Unilab and Unilever.

For complete list of nominees, visit www.manunuri.com.

'Horror' stories

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I'VE heard so many "horror" stories about the brother of **Hero Angeles** (Henry) from ABS-CBN insiders. They say he throws his weight around as if he's the star, and that he has the audacity to pick fights with the Talent Center people for inane reasons. Poor Hero! He is fast becoming a pet peeve in the industry because of his brother's braggadocio. It's no surprise then that ABS-CBN has no grandiose plans for Hero's first anniversary as Star Circle Quest 1's Grand Questor on June 5. Instead, the network is airing a Sandara Park special. Some Hero fanatics insist that the network favors **Sandara** over Hero even if they're known as a love team. But can you blame the network if the people around Hero (especially his brother) make it difficult to build him up? Sometimes a star's cordon sanitaire turns out to be "unsanitary" for their image. Hopefully, Hero's camp will wake up soon. Or will they be too late the hero?

Is there romance brewing between Beer ad sensation **Derek Ramsey** and singer **Aliya Parcs**? Both of them are half-Pinoy. ("Lower or upper half?" Haha! That's my routine joke when I meet Pinoys with foreign blood.) They were spotted in a bar recently. When I cornered Aliya and asked about Derek she chuckled, "He may be one of the hottest boys around but we're just friends. We've known each other four years. It's not like I'm his friend now because he's famous *na*!" Derek is said to be **Kris Aquino's** "flavor" (or should I say "toast"?) of the month. They look good together in their classy beer commercial. As soon as Derek got his talent fee for the ad, he asked Kris when he could take her out to dinner. What a coincidence that both Aliya and Kris were also linked to **Alvin Patrimonio** many hearbeats ago. As for Derek, does beauty lie in the eyes of the BEERholder?

Little TV war

HEARD that Channel 2's "Going Bulilit" beat Channel 7's "Bubble Gang Jr" in the ratings for two straight weeks. So "B.G. Jr." will soon be adding fresh concepts to the kiddie show. Network execs are toying with the idea of having celebrity guests. Funny thing is, the kiddie stars of both shows are not bothered by the ratings game at all. For them, it's the games they play on and off-cam that count. But for the networks, even kids can turn into pawns in the cruel TV duel. "Bubble Gang" is a consistent top-rater and has won numerous awards . Maybe it's better for GMA to come up with another kind of children's show instead of a kiddie version of "Bubble Gang" to avoid overkill. Are they bursting their own bubble ?

Korina Sanchez went to Boracay with her "Rated K" staff for brainstorming. It also gave them a chance to bond. Although Korina is a strict disciplinarian, she knows when to let her hair down. Every so often she makes sure she spends quality time with her staff. This is her way of rewarding them for working so hard to meet her standards. She told me once: " I don't deny that I'm a perfectionist when it comes to my work, so I expect my staff to be just as driven. I correct [their mistakes] in order to motivate them. They will be able to use what they learned from me in their future jobs."

Sort of an A.B. Korinalogy course, huh?

Storms of Faith

CATCH the Koreanovela diva, Faith Cuneta, when she storms Market! Market! today at 5 p.m. Having sold out her self-titled debut album in only a few weeks, Faith continues with her nationwide mall tour. After promoting "Pag-Ibig Ko'y Pansinin"—theme song of the GMA hit Koreanovela "Stairway To Heaven"—she's now promoting her new single, "Love Me Again," remake of a **Lani Hall** original. This month, Faith performs at the Makati Shangri-La on Tuesdays and Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel on Thursdays.

First ever

BUENA Vista International Television-Asia Pacific (BVITV-AP) has signed a multi-year licensing agreement, which includes a first-ever features package, with Studio 23. This was announced by **Steve Macallister**, senior vice president and managing director, BVITV-AP and **Leo Katigbak**, managing director of Studio 23 and a vice president of ABS-CBN.

Under the agreement, Studio 23 and ABS-CBN will air blockbuster features, a Disney Adventures branded block and award-winning reality and live action series. This includes "Desperate Housewives" and "Lost," two of the hottest shows this year.

Winner of two Golden Globes, "Desperate Housewives" is enthralling audiences and smashing records as it launches across the globe. It is an ensemble drama that takes a darkly comedic look at suburbia, where the secret lives of housewives aren't always what they seem.

'Lost,' too

"LOST," from **J.J. Abrams**, creator of Alias, and **Damon Lindelof** (Crossing Jordan) is an action-packed adventure of a plane crash in the South Pacific and the survivors who must work together to stay alive.

Included in the agreement is Seasons 7 and 8 of the two-time Emmy Award-winning reality series, "The Amazing Race," in which 11 teams, each with a pre-existing relationship, race around the world for a million dollars.

In addition, the fourth season of the critically acclaimed "Alias," starring Golden Globe winner **Jennifer Garner**, airs on Studio 23.

(For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

Weak motivation for Anakin's transformation into Darth Vader

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

BEFORE viewing the latest and last "Star Wars" film, "Revenge of the Sith," we intuited that the production would succeed or fail depending on how believably it depicted Anakin Skywalker's transformation into Darth Vader.

This, after all, was Episode II's dramatic and thematic fulcrum, and it would help make clearer sense of the film series' central villain.

Therefore, the thespic challenge and onus of the episode would fall on the still untested capabilities of young actor **Hayden Christensen**, to whom the plum role of Anakin was entrusted by filmmaker **George Lucas**, after a long and exhaustive search.

Christensen's first foray as the young Anakin in the series' previous prequel episode wasn't encouraging. He looked good on the screen, but his performance was skittish and lacked substance.

Well, that was sort of understandable, because he was playing a young and therefore not completely formed character. So, we decided to postpone judgment until after seeing the follow-up episode showing Anakin as an adult.

We've just viewed "Return of the Sith," and can therefore state that Christensen doesn't do justice to the Anakin/Darth Vader transformation and conundrum.

Aside from the actor's lack of thespic depth, the problem appears to be the way the role has been written, because the motivation for Anakin's going to the "dark" side of the Force is exceedingly thin.

Basically, it consists of his having been promised by his evil mentor, Palpatine, the power to prevent the death of his pregnant wife, Padme, after he sees her dying in a nightmare.

No way is this reason enough for Anakin to abandon his beloved fellow Jedis and become so evil himself that he goes on a killing spree.

So, when the big screen moment comes for Anakin to become Darth Vader, the key sequence falls flat, because the motivation is weak, and Christensen lacks the necessary *gravitas* to make the moment a truly tragic denouement.

That's too bad, because many other aspects of the production are impressively effective. Its sense of nobility and grandeur is magnificent to behold; its sci-fi elements are imaginative and inventive; its futuristic locales, spaceships, weapons and costumes are wonderfully creative; its many different creatures are droll, and its emotional quotient is intense.

Unlike some other sci-fi movies that opt for an abstract rendering of tomorrow, George Lucas' production keeps things busy, and makes the locales look lived-in. All that detail takes extra imagination and time to pull off, so we admire the production for taking that extra step.

So, despite Christensen's insufficient portrayal, "The Return of the Sith" is eminently viewable. Even if you aren't a "Star Wars" groupie, you would appreciate Lucas' engaged and textured storytelling, and his inspired dramatization of the cautionary and ever relevant conflict between good and evil.

'Defining Moments'

CNN marks its 25th anniversary with a special that looks back at events that have impacted on people's lives over the last quarter century. The special, "Defining Moments: Stories That Touched Our Lives," airs at 7 p.m. tomorrow; and 5 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. on June 5.

The one-hour program goes from the unforgettable images of the recent South Asian Tsunami to that night in Baghdad in 1991 when US coalition bombs began to fall.

It includes moments of courage against oppression, embodied in the eyewitness recollections of veteran CNN journalist **Jim Clancy**, as he recalls the revolution of the Eastern Bloc, and tales of a wall that once divided the whole world, as it came tumbling down.

Hosted by CNN anchor **Jonathan Mann**, the special highlights ambitious endeavors and fatal flights with the explosion of the Challenger and the Columbia. The program also features images of reconciliation and conflict in the Middle East.

'Mesmerize'

SYSTEM of a Down has just released "Mesmerize," from the rock band's two-disc set, "Mesmerize/ Hypnotize," in CDs and cassettes. The disc's first single is "B.Y.O.B." or "Bring Your Own Bombs," which questions a president's involvement in the business of war.

Other songs' topics include relationships, the evils of television and corporate mind control, the mystery of life and death, and a surreal experience at a celebrity baseball game.

The band's "Hypnotize" disc will be released later this year.

Int'l jazz band Satya at the Westin on June 6

IT'S bound to be an evening of new music at the Westin Philippine Plaza's Harbor Garden on June 6 as acclaimed Boston-based group, Satya, brings its eclectic brand of music to Manila for the first time in a dinner/concert dubbed, "Synesthesia: A Fusion of the Senses."

Satya is a powerhouse band comprised of some of the best players from the Berklee College of Music. With jazz's improvisational vocabulary as their main medium of communication, the group creates an original sound that draws from their individual backgrounds to create a unique sound that blends jazz, soul, R&B and funk.

Pianist Mark Zaragoza Sainz and Juan Gomez Galiardo founded the band and composed and arranged all its original material. Mark was born in the Philippines and became part of the well-known band Mr. Buga while growing up in Madrid. He moved to New York in 1997. He has performed professionally in Europe and the States. He is currently studying under world-acclaimed pianist JoAnne Brakeen.

Call 752-4374 or 810-8983).

SHOW TIME

Tonight

"Fiestamundo Night" with **Rinka**, **Humble Sauce** and **The Brew** at **Gweilos** Eastwood, 10 p.m.

Kuh Ledesma in "The Songs That Made the Movies" at the **Captain's Bar** of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 721-0635

AiAi delas Alas, **Arnell Ignacio** and **Allan K** at **Klownz** in Angeles, Pampanga. Call (045) 892-6538.

SATYA is composed of some of the best players from the Berklee College of Music

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Nyoy Volante and Mannos at **Suburbia**

Tomorrow

Kuh Ledesma in "The Songs That Made the Movies" at the **Captain's Bar** of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 721-0635

Wiseguys and **Freeverse** at **Suburbia**

604 at **SM Cebu**

Star in a Million Champions League of 5 featuring **Mabel Bacusmo**, **Nikki Bacolod**, **Jona Lumbera**, **Ryan Racal** and grand champion **Jerome Sala** will be at the **Ayala Center Cebu**, 6 p.m.

Escape at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at **Merk's**

June 5

Kyla at **SM Fairview**; 4 p.m.

June 6

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Bernie Uy at **Merk's**

June 7

Human Race at **Suburbia**

M.Y.M.P. at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Giselle Sanchez with **Aretha and the Souled Out Band** at **Merk's**

June 8

Ron Antonio at **Suburbia**

Side A at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Wednesday Jazz Festival at **Merk's** with **Richard Merk**, **Eddie Katindig**, **Mon David** and **Sandra Lim**.

June 9

Rockin' Revival at **Merk's**

Wiseguys at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

King with his band Rush back-to-back with Keystone at **Suburbia**

June 10

Kyla at **SM Bacoor**; 4 p.m.

604 at **SM Marilao, Bulacan**

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Nyoy Volante and Mannos at **Suburbia**

Giants rule Awit

From page A2-1

composed by Jay Durias/Vincent Alaras, performed by South Border (SMP/Brown Hand Records);

Best Regional Recording: "Usahay" by South Border (SMP);

Best Song Written for Movies/TV/Stage Play: "Ikaw Nga" by South Border (GMA Records); Best Musical Arrangement: "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka" by Ryan Cayabyab (BMG).

People's Choice Favorite Award went to **Ryan Cayabyab** and **The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra**. Music Video Of the Year went to Sugarfree for **"Hari Ng Sablay"** (EMI). People's Choice Favorite Song is **"Noypi"** by Bamboo (EMI).

Dangal Ng Musikang Pilipino (Hall Of Fame) recipient this year is **Rey Valera**.

The expression of a new millionaire!

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P1 Million

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Maybunga, Pasig City
P1 Million Winner

"Yyeeesss!
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The PLDT P10 per call P1 Million Challenge Winner!

Ganyan ang reaksyon ng subscriber na may pinakamaraming tawag mula April 12 to May 11. Feeling milyonaryo si Michelle Paez dahil nagwagi siya ng one million pesos in cold cash, na ini-announce sa Eat Bulaga.

P1 Million
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P1 Million
TAX FREE

Abangan girl, PLDT representative Ms. Marizel Borromeo, DTI representative Arnaldo del Rosario and Eat Bulaga host, Francis Magalona eagerly await the announcement of the PLDT P10 per call P1M Challenge winner.

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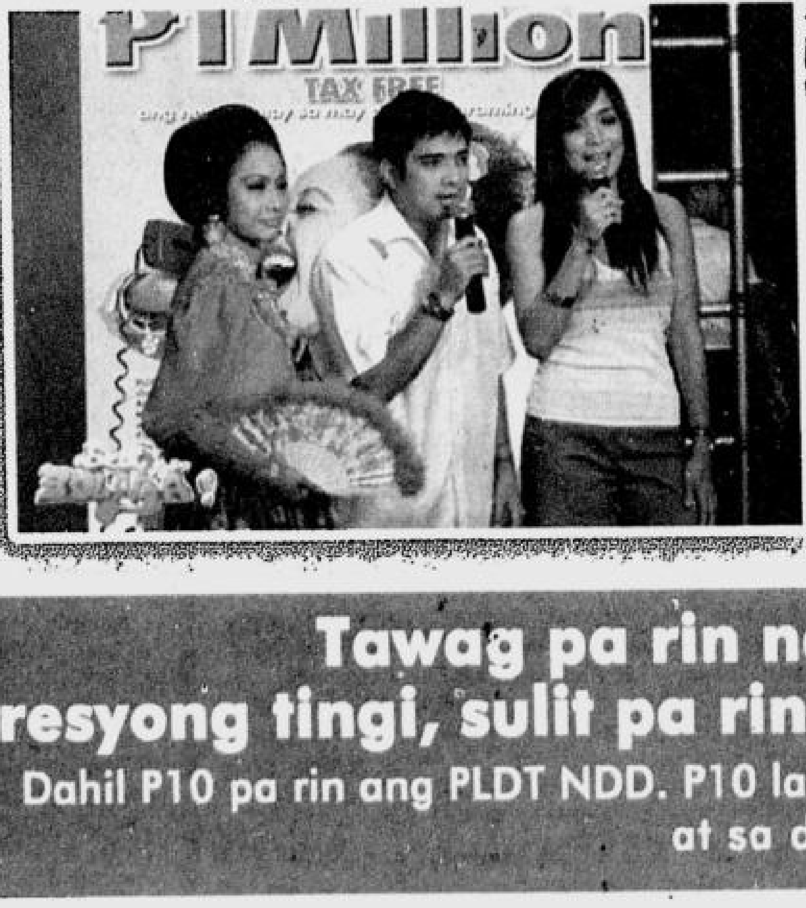
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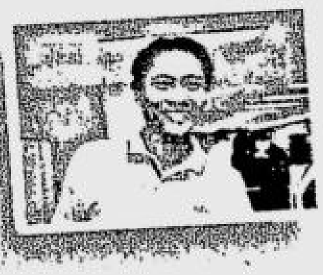
"I was very happy. At first, I thought it was hoax. Eh, birthday ko pa nun. Then it was confirmed. I won! What a nice way to end the day!"

Jennifer Dee Chua
Greenhills, San Juan



"Di ko inaasahan na mananalo ako. Masayang-masaya ako nung nalaman ko na nanalo ako!"

Freddie Herradura
Bacoor, Cavite

"At first, 'di ko alam kung totoo ba 'to? Nung nalaman kong totoo nga, siyempre nagtatalon ako sa tuwa!"

Jocelyn Aldon
Caloocan City

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4. Ma. Corazon Dacara, Misamis Occidental
5. Julita Reyes, Parañaque City
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7. Rodolfo Estrellado, Muntinlupa City

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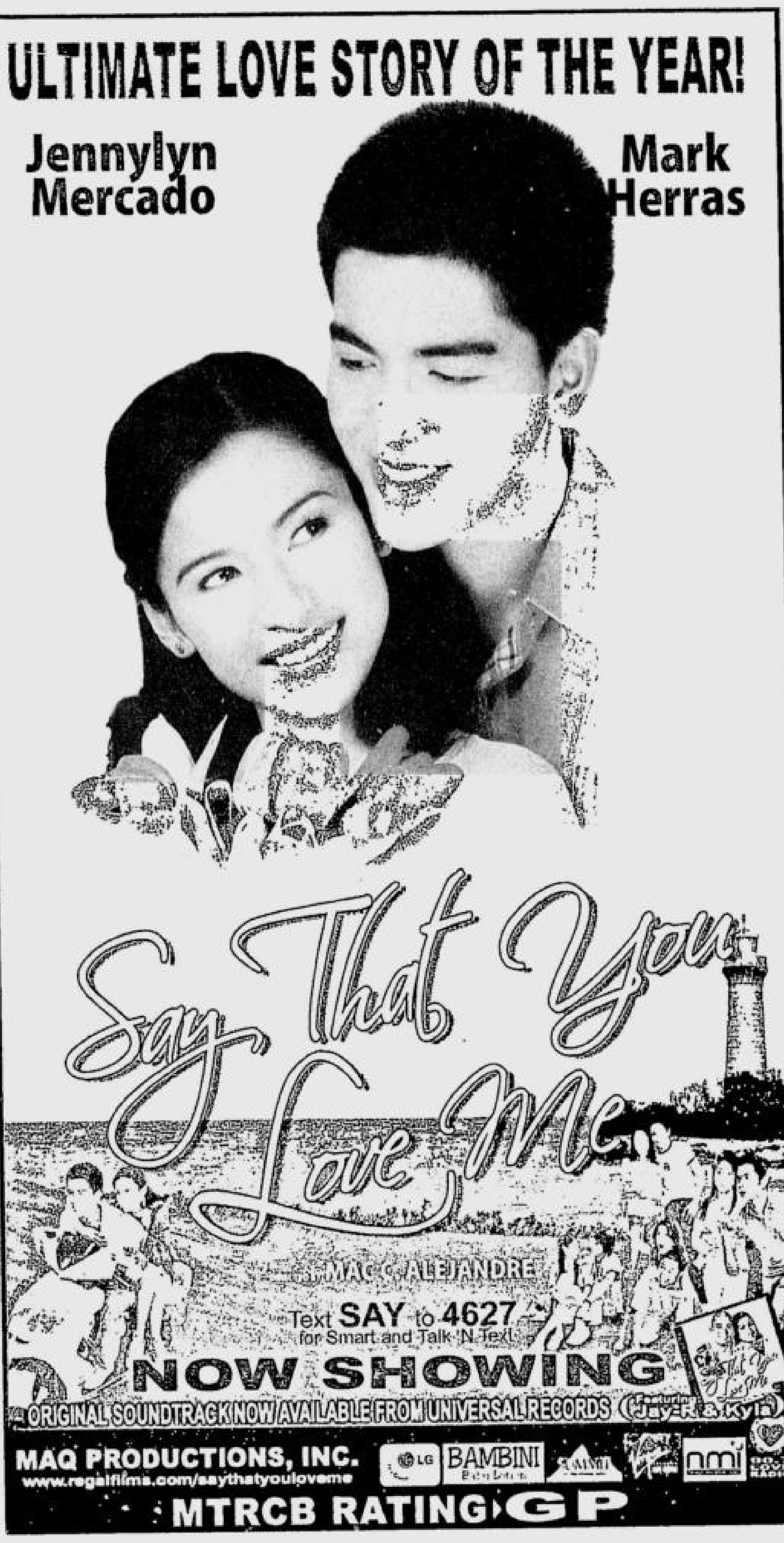

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A LOT LIKE LOVE 1:35 / 4:05 / 6:35 / 9:05	STAR WARS - EPISODE III 12:30 / 1:10 / 3:30 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 10:10
MADAGASCAR 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20	COACH CARTER 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
UNLEASHED 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	SHUTTER 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
HOUSE OF WAX 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA P 249 / P299 STAR WARS - EPISODE III

3RD INTERNATIONAL PINK FILM FESTIVAL: June 3 - 12, 2005
June 3 7:00pm MGA PUSANG GALA

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	❹ LA VISA LOCA 11:15 / 1:30 / 3:45 / 6:00 / 8:15
❷ SIN CITY 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15	❺ MADAGASCAR 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❸ UNLEASHED 11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

NBA MUSIC & MADNESS *June 4, Saturday, 8pm*	June 5, Sun. 16th FIBA ASIA CHAMPIONS CUP *Games Start: 12:30pm 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm*
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *June 8, Wednesday, 7pm San Miguel vs. Alaska*	HILLSONG - REUBEN MORGAN LIVE *June 11, Sat. 4-6pm Worship Seminar 7-9pm Worship*

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY MALL	*The Batman Collectors Exhibit featuring The Batmobile, Batman action figures, toys, apparel and many more on display from May 27 to June 5 at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area* *Meet & greet The Madagascar Penguins on June 3 (3pm) and June 5 (5pm) at the Gateway Cineplex Lobby*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ASHLEY Fontanilla

14 vie for Star Model

STAR Group of Malls presents the finals of its Star Model Quest 2005 tomorrow at the 4th Level Trade Hall of Metropolis Star Alabang in Muntinlupa City.

After seven elimination rounds, 14 finalists are vying for the title: Ana Patricia "Trisha" Garcia of Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Erika Ibasco "Gwea" Pangan, Marikina City; Erika "Aicka" Friginal; Elizabeth Angelie Avelino, Quezon City; Stephanie Anne "Ainia" San Luis and Ericka Signere "Ashley" Fontanilla, Caloocan City.

John Val dela Cruz, Pasig City; Briant Racho and Angelo "Gelo" Mamaril, Quezon City; Joseph "Pep" Fernandez, Valenzuela City; Jayson Benedick Barrientos, Cainta; Raffy "Raf" Pijuan, Las Piñas City; Eliseo Mercado, "Jay-R" Ele and Jonas Gotuato, Malabon City.

SMQ was launched by the Star Group of Malls in 2002.

Report on 'moto' capital

KABATAAN News Network takes its viewers tomorrow to Dumaguete City, where motorcycles of all types and sizes abound, earning the city the title "Motorcycle Capital of the Philippines."

The episode airs at 10 a.m. on ABC 5.

KNN's young crew from Dumaguete reports that all motorcycles registered with the Land Transportation Office comes from this city. These are big bikes, DTs and the so-called "Econopower," the most popular.

The KNN report also cites statistics that show 30 percent of young people below age 18 already drive motorcycles, in violation of a law that says only Filipinos 18 years of age and older may be issued valid drivers' licenses.

Accidents

The segment tackles other concerns, such as accidents involving minors, safety gear and compliance with traffic rules.

KNN is produced by Unicef Philippine and the Probe Media Foundation. It also airs every Sunday at 11 a.m. on NBN 4 and daily on Nickelodeon as short segments. It is the only TV program in the country produced, written and shot by Filipinos aged 15-18. *(E-mail knn@hotmail.com)*

ENTERTAINMENT

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THE LUMINOUS Scarlett Johansson, with Ewan McGregor (right) in "The Island."

If it's Tuesday, that must be Scarlett Johansson (or how I survived last week)

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Your columnist from Barangay Gabon in Calasiao, Pangasinan is glad to have survived last week's seemingly nonstop round of, uh, "opportunities for media coverage."

Even an eager-beaver "promdi" such as myself was amazed that no matter how tired I was, I did not doze off at any of the events. I could have snored right behind **Scarlett Johansson** at an "advance look" at her coming movie but I did not. Only in Hollywood, folks: even an "advance look" where they show about half of an unfinished film—is now getting the pull-out-all-the-stops lavish treatment as if it were the premiere already.

Half-sensible

But I'm getting ahead of the story. My hectic week, all in the pursuit of stories to share with you readers (I swear!), officially started with the first glass of Chardonnay shoved into my hot little hand at the cocktails reception for the LA premiere of HBO's "Empire Falls."

A colleague introduced me to **Fred Schepisi**, who steered **Meryl Streep** toward her nth Oscar Best Actress nomination as an Aussie housewife ("The dingo ate your baby"— remember?) in "A Cry in the Dark." Fred helmed the night's reason for celebration, **Richard Russo's** TV adaptation of his own Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "Empire Falls."

In a situation like this, I've mastered the art of shaking hands, carrying on a half-sensible conversation, trying to commit to memory what the person in front of me is saying so I can write it later, looking interested while balancing a *platito* of hors d'oeuvres and a glass of Chardonnay and oh yeah, while also masticating a whole stick of chicken *satay*.

Punk, am I?

So there I was at the lobby of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) headquarters on Sunset Boulevard, doing all the above, setting a world record for multi-tasking, and my missus was whispering into my ear that I have to fix my hair in the back because "mukha kang punk." So I try to subtly brush an uncooperative clump of hair with the hand holding the drink as the genial Fred told me that the talented cast took huge pay cuts for the chance to work on Richard's material and to act alongside **Paul Newman**. Somehow, I managed not to shower myself with Chardonnay.

Come screening time, we made sure to sit in the back because we wouldn't be able to watch all three hours of this HBO made-for-TV movie. The night's game plan involved sneaking out after two hours so we can attend the premiere party of "Cinderella Man" at the Universal Studios. Well, after a couple of hours, it was hard to leave. Seeing the excellent **Ed Harris** holding his own against the great Paul Newman and the rest of the cast—Paul's wife, the beautiful **Joanne Woodward, Helen Hunt, Robin Wright Penn, Aidan Quinn, Philip Seymour Hoffman** and a "psychotic cat" was a rare pleasure.

But we managed to pry ourselves from our seats, tiptoe out of the theater and then run like crazy to the parking lot. As I drove like a middle-aged, er, punk on Hollywood Boulevard, I felt for my cell phone in my pants pocket. It wasn't there. Oh well, sometimes even the best-laid sneak plans don't work out. So I turned the car back to Sunset, pretty sure that my cell phone was smarter than I was and therefore decided to stay and watch the rest of "Empire Falls."

I screeched the car to a halt in front of the DGA. As the missus got out of the car to go back to the theater and search for my errant cell in the dark, I jokingly warned her to be careful *"at baka iba ang makapa mo."* Minutes later, she came back with the cell in her hand. I raced the car to the hills of the Universal Studios. Perfect timing—**Russell Crowe** and **Renee Zellweger's** "Cinderella Man," which I'd already seen and therefore could skip, had just ended. We were just in time for the "partay."

AMERICAN Idol 2005 Carrie Underwood

WITH runner-up Bo Bice

Lavish party

Since the Hollywood practice these days is to try to match the food, décor and music to the setting of the movie being premiered, tonight's party menu featured 1930s Depression-era staples, including macaroni salad. Of course, the scope of this party of 2,500 people at the lawn fronting the Universal amphitheatre is anything but Depression era-ish.

The lavishness of premiere parties sometimes makes me want to believe that the cost of staging these bashes surpasses the million dollar budgets of the movie productions themselves. It must be said though that some premieres are for a worthy cause—this one raised close to $100,000 for Best Buddies, a foundation that helps people with intellectual disabilities.

My brain, drenched in Chardonnay, somehow still managed to make the following observation at the sight of "Cinderella Man's" Oscar-winning producer **Brian Grazer**, who is 54. With his trademark spiky hair, slim black tie, white shirt and slim black pants, Brian is a middle-aged guy who has consistently cultivated a punk look all these years.

Quick conclusion

Tuesday afternoon, we were, as requested, seated by 4:30 at the Kodak Theatre for the 5:00 final performance show of "American Idol." At the risk of incurring the ire of Bo Bice's millions of fans (and majority of the audience at Kodak was quite obviously for the long-haired finalist), there was no contest in this match-up.

Carrie Underwood was clearly the better singer but I understood why Bo has more fans—he has charisma. I arrived at that conclusion even as we sneaked out (again) and missed Carrie's third and last song. We had to schlep over to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences headquarters in Beverly Hills for an "advance look" at **Michael Bay's** sci-fi thriller, "The Island."

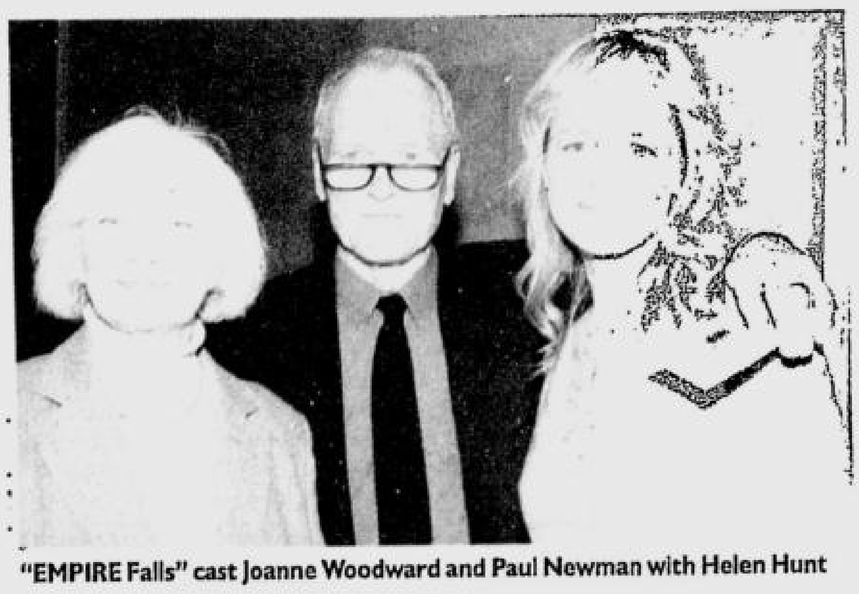
Michael, director of such loud extravaganzas as "Armageddon," "The Rock," "Pearl Harbor" and the two "Bad Boys" movies, quipped in his intro of the first hour of "The Island" that he was nervous about showing his unfinished movie. He is so anxious, he joked, that he would be throwing up in the men's room.

No one in the audience threw up, as far as I know. No wonder the suits at DreamWorks were so gung-ho about giving a special sneak peek at this futuristic action-thriller starring Scarlett Johansson and **Ewan McGregor**. If the rest of this movie is as enjoyable and exciting as the first half that was shown to us, then "The Island" (Boracay it is definitely not, I can assure you that) should emerge as one of the top favorites this summer in the US.

An amazing sight greeted the folks when they came down the lobby from the theater for the reception. The entire lobby was transformed to reflect the movie's futuristic setting, down to the floor which was covered in all-white carpet. Only in Hollywood, folks—all this to-do for a reception that lasted for a few hours only.

On Sunday: the rest of the week, with the "Idol" finals, and HBO's "Entourage."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)



"EMPIRE Falls" cast Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman with Helen Hunt

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Katie: I couldn't be happier with Tom

KATIE Holmes

TOKYO—One of Hollywood's hottest couples may be having difficulty persuading the public their romance is genuine, but actress Katie Holmes says her love for screen star Tom Cruise is real.

"I couldn't be happier. I'm so happy," Holmes said on her way into the world premiere of her latest movie "Batman Begins."

"He's the most amazing man in the whole world," she told Reuters here on Tuesday.

Cruise effusive

Cruise, 42, has also made no secret of his interest in the 26-year-old, until recently best known for her role in the TV series "Dawson's Creek."

In a recent interview with US talk show host Oprah Winfrey, Cruise shed his cool image to enthuse about the relationship, prompting commentators to ask whether it was a publicity stunt aimed at promoting movies both stars were appearing in.

People magazine recently ran an unscientific poll showing that nearly two thirds of those questioned believed the Holmes-Cruise relationship, which became public in late April, was a stunt.

Cruise is starring in Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," due for release this month.

Holmes said she was proud to be appearing in "Batman Begins," directed by Christopher Nolan and also starring veteran actor Morgan Freeman.

Reuters

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Rito P. Asilo (Philippine Daily Inquirer)
"...there is laughter galore in this film.."
"...not only is it entertaining, it is also intelligent..."

"...Robin Padilla delivers the best performance in his career... From beginning to end, Padilla is very effective -- even brilliant in his scenes."
- Butch Francisco (Philippine Star)

"La Visa Loca is a should-see production for lovers of Filipino movies that come to bear on local realities..."
- Nestor U. Torre (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

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A Savory Month of June at Dusit Hotel Nikko

BOOST your appetite this June and indulge with Dusit Hotel Nikko's sumptuous food offerings in its much celebrated authentic Asian specialty restaurants.

Start your day right, have breakfast at The Café. An ideal venue for early morning meetings offering diners with a relaxed and cozy ambiance, The Café treats patrons with a complimentary buffet breakfast if dining with a minimum of four persons availing themselves of the breakfast buffet.

The grouper, better known as "Hata" in Japanese, is abundant during June. Because of the good harvest, Chef Igarashi of Benkay is featuring this seafood with a seven-course set-menu priced at P1,400++ per person for the entire month. Dine at Benkay and find out why it is considered as one of the best Japanese restaurants by food connoisseurs.

It is all about seafood and nothing more as the hotel's popular and authentic Thai restaurant, Benjarong, features the "Seafood Promotion." The promotion, which is "Oan Da Man Varieties" in Thai, offers guests a wide choice from amongst the seven a la carte dishes featuring Lapu-Lapu, shrimp, prawns and squid. This is offered during lunch and dinner from June 6 to 19.

Thien Duong introduces the restaurant's new chef Nguyen Minh Nguyen who hails from Nam Dinh, Vietnam. For his opening salvo, he prepared 11 savory dishes for diners to sample. This is offered a la carte for the entire month of June.

Go berserk this June with "Pina Loco," a combination of gin, syrup, coconut juice and coconut meat, pineapple and orange juice. This unique drink is served with a cuddly stuffed toy and priced at P400++ per glass.

And at the Deli Shop, simply indulge to satisfy your cravings. Take home either a slice priced at P85 nett or a whole cake for P730 nett of the mouthwatering "Orange Mango Delight," the featured cake for the month of June.

Experience Dusit, the Asian way of life. For queries or reservations, call 867-3333.

Mizu: Cebu City's first lifestyle concept restaurant

MIZU is the Japanese word for water. It is also Cebu City's newest gathering space that offers a diversity of dining experiences and influences a new lifestyle altogether. Mizu, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's (WCCHC) newest member of its roster of signature restaurants, takes on the fundamental qualities of water: fresh and pure.

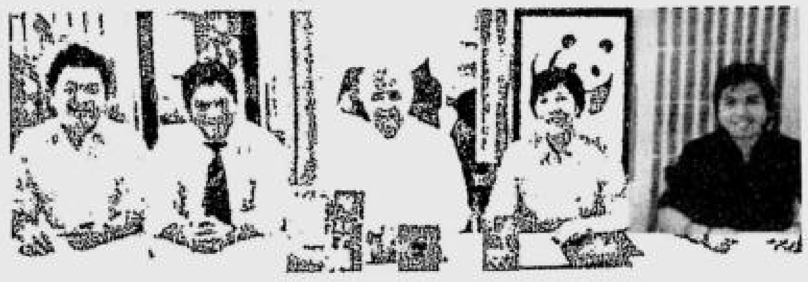
At the outset, Mizu sets the benchmark in authentic Japanese dining with the culinary inventions of master chef Nobuyuki Imamura from Yanagawa City, Kukuoka Prefecture, Japan. Chef Imamura has kept himself busy in the kitchen of Japan since 1973. He has been cooking up storms in the Philippines since he arrived in Manila in 1993. As a Japanese Chef, he believes in reinventing, yet staying true to the intrinsic characteristics of food, which is the whole philosophy of Mizu.

Taking pride in a modern, casual but elegant setting, infused with a contemporary vibe, Mizu is designed by Manila-based Illustre and Associates. A focal point of the restaurant is one whole wall on one side of the restaurant, painted gold. Scattered against the wall are slabs of gold rectangles; inscribed in the slabs are haikus in Japanese about water by renowned poet Basho.

Mizu is presented as the hotel's first, lifestyle concept restaurant. Mizu offers a diversity of experiences. It offers an array of enticing desserts specially created for Mizu; it flaunts an extensive collection of premium wines and spirits, including sake and soju; a well-embracing "after-10" menu of signature cocktails and tasty eats; it offers premium UCC Coffee from Japan, all this in a 170 seating-capacity zen-luxe environment, including four private rooms and a *teppanyaki* room.

Mizu is just the first of a series of lifestyle concept restaurants that WCCHC plans to present Cebu City with. Along with this is the transformation of the hotel's previously unused Stairway 27 into the all-new, fondly labeled Gourmet Walk, which gives guests easy access to the hotel's numerous restaurants. The Gourmet Walk is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Mizu is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 12 midnight on weekdays; open until 2 a.m. on weekends. For inquiries and reservations, call (032) 232-6888 extension 8609 or 8201.



WWF PHILIPPINES - GENESIS HOTELS GROUP TIE-UP. The Genesis Hotels Group recently forged a marketing agreement with World Wide Fund Philippines' Conservation Circle, an advocacy group committed to preserving ecological balance and nature. The formal contract signing was done at the Astoria Plaza by Genesis Hotels & Resorts Corp president Miguel G. Cerqueda (center) with Flory Tabio, VP for partnerships. On hand are (from left) GHRC associate art director Erwin Doña and GHRC VP for sales and marketing Chito Silerio with Vicson Chua, WWF membership services officer.

Of Regent birth

A FOUR-decade-and-a-half old Oyster Villa, known as Naga City's first Chinese seafood restaurant, has created a remarkable history in Bicol despite a big and growing number of restaurants built in the city. Talk about crabs, prawns and noodles... hmmm, only Oyster Villa can give you authentic mouth-savoring delicacies that lasts not only the so called aftertaste but even beyond...

The demand for outdoor catering services had reached its peak three years ago. Thus, the need for a "room" to accommodate them all won through.

Regent Hotel then came to life...

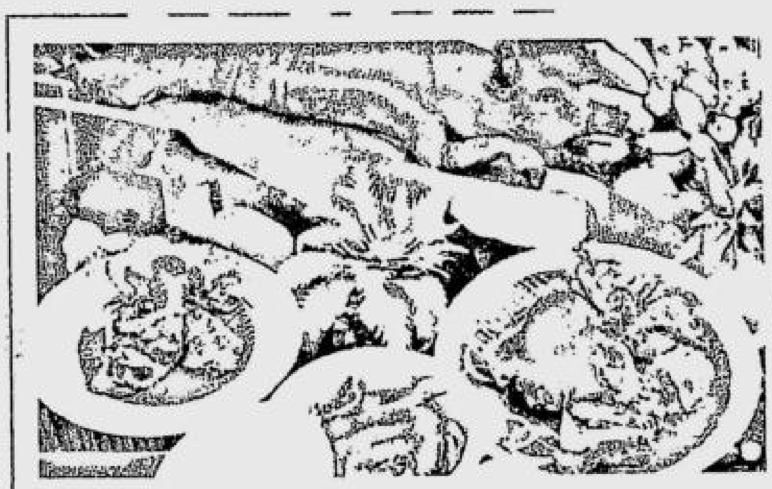
Situated at the heart of downtown Naga, Regent Hotel houses 10 function rooms, the biggest in the city, and fully equipped with contemporary seminar and banquet facilities, which can accommodate from 20 to 1,200 persons, whether round table, theater or classroom type. The hotel earned its reputation when it hosted a number of big events in the region, such as The Philippine National Skills Olympics and the Prosecutors' League, among others. A wide array of genuine Oyster Villa menu is available. Your choice is its command!

Entertainment wise, Regent Hotel boasts of Cosmic Lanes, Bicol's only Tenpin Bowling Center, and Gud Buddies, both ideally situated in the third floor, quite close to the haven of hotel guests for convenience sake.

As the demand for more hotel rooms prevailed, 42 more rooms were added in the accommodation arena. Now, Regent Hotel takes pride in its 62 suites, rooms and dormitories equipped with private toilet and bath, hot and cold shower system, telephone, cable television, orthopedic bed and individually controlled air conditioning system. A business center endowed with Internet and secretarial services is accessibly positioned at the Mezzanine Level.

To date, the hotel has earned an excellent name in the hospitality industry, as declared by Bicol Tourism in its recent convention.

Regent Hotel is the word-of-mouth in the hospitality industry in the city. It has endured competition. It has, as if, lived to tell the tale of what a growing hotel means.



Independence Day fiesta at The Bellevue Hotel

A JOYOUS celebration of rich Filipino heritage happens at The Bellevue Hotel this June 11 and 12, in commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day. The Bellevue, Metro Manila's only deluxe hotel in the south, offers excitement and festivity with a fun food adventure through the different islands of the archipelago with its Special Filipino Buffet Promo.

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Singer-composer-impresario Richard Tann will be cremated today after a mass at the Sanctuario de San Antonio in Makati City at 10 a.m. Only family and close friends are attending the rites.

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1	A LOT LIKE LOVE	12:30, 3:05, 5:40 8:15, 10:50	PG-13
2	MADAGASCAR	10:50, 1:00, 3:05, 5:20, 7:25, 10:15	GP
3	STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH	11:05, 1:50, 4:40 7:30, 10:20	GP
4	SIN CITY	12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 10:50	R-13

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SIN CITY R13 12:30,3:00,5.30,8:00,10:30	SHUTTER R13 1:05,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:50	A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13 1:10,3:30,5.50,8:10,10:30

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star group of cinemas movie guide
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starmall EDSA-SHAW
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3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 SIN CITY
5 UNLEASHED
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METROPOLIS ALABANG star
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2 SHUTTER
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 SIN CITY
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

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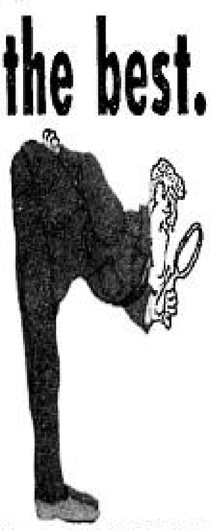

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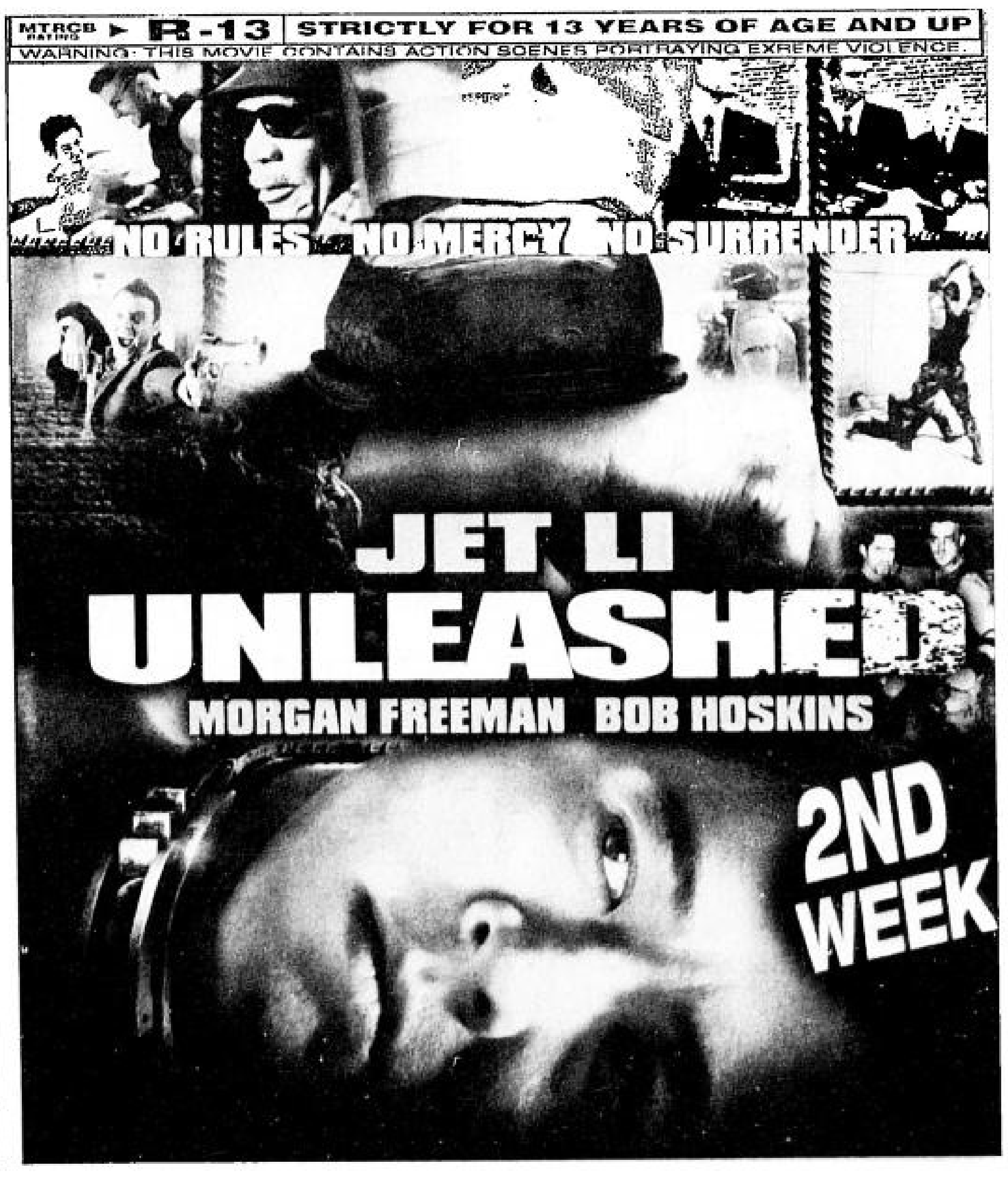

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2 MADAGASCAR / CINEMA 2
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the megamall cinema 1
HOUSE OF WAX
633-1901

the cebu cinema 1
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 SIN CITY
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III

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2 MADAGASCAR
3 SIN CITY
4 UNLEASHED
5 COACH CARTER
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 STARWARS: EPISODE III
11 TRUMPETS
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city fairview
1 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 SIN CITY
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 UNLEASHED
11 COACH CARTER
12 SHUTTER

sm north edsa
1 SIN CITY
2 MADAGASCAR
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 SHUTTER
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 POOH'S HEFFALUMP
8 STARWARS: EPISODE III

sm city manila
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 ANG LAGUSAN
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 MADAGASCAR
6 UNLEASHED
7 COACH CARTER
8 SIN CITY
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 BIKINI OPEN
11 SHUTTER
12 LA VISA LOCA

sm city sta mesa
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 SIN CITY
4 SHUTTER
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 UNLEASHED
8 COACH CARTER
9 A LOT LIKE LOVE
10 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city southmall
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 SIN CITY
5 ARE WE THERE YET?
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 COACH CARTER
8 UNLEASHED
9 MADAGASCAR
10 SHUTTER

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 LA VISA LOCA
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city bicutan
1 SIN CITY
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 UNLEASHED
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

sm city bacoor
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 UNLEASHED
3 MADAGASCAR
4 SIN CITY
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 SHUTTER
8 LA VISA LOCA

sm city dasmariñas
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MADAGASCAR

sm city lucena
1 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 GUESS WHO
4 MADAGASCAR

sm city baguio
1 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 MADAGASCAR
3 MADAGASCAR
4 GUESS WHO

sm city marilao
1 MADAGASCAR
2 SHUTTER
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

sm city cagayan de oro
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 GUESS WHO
3 SAY THAT YOU LOV EME
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SIN CITY
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 MADAGASCAR
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
8 UNLEASHED

sm city iloilo
1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 RESERVED
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 STARWARS: EPISODE III
7 RESERVED
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

sm city davao
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 ONG BAK
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 UNLEASHED

sm city batangas
1 MADAGASCAR
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 GUESS WHO

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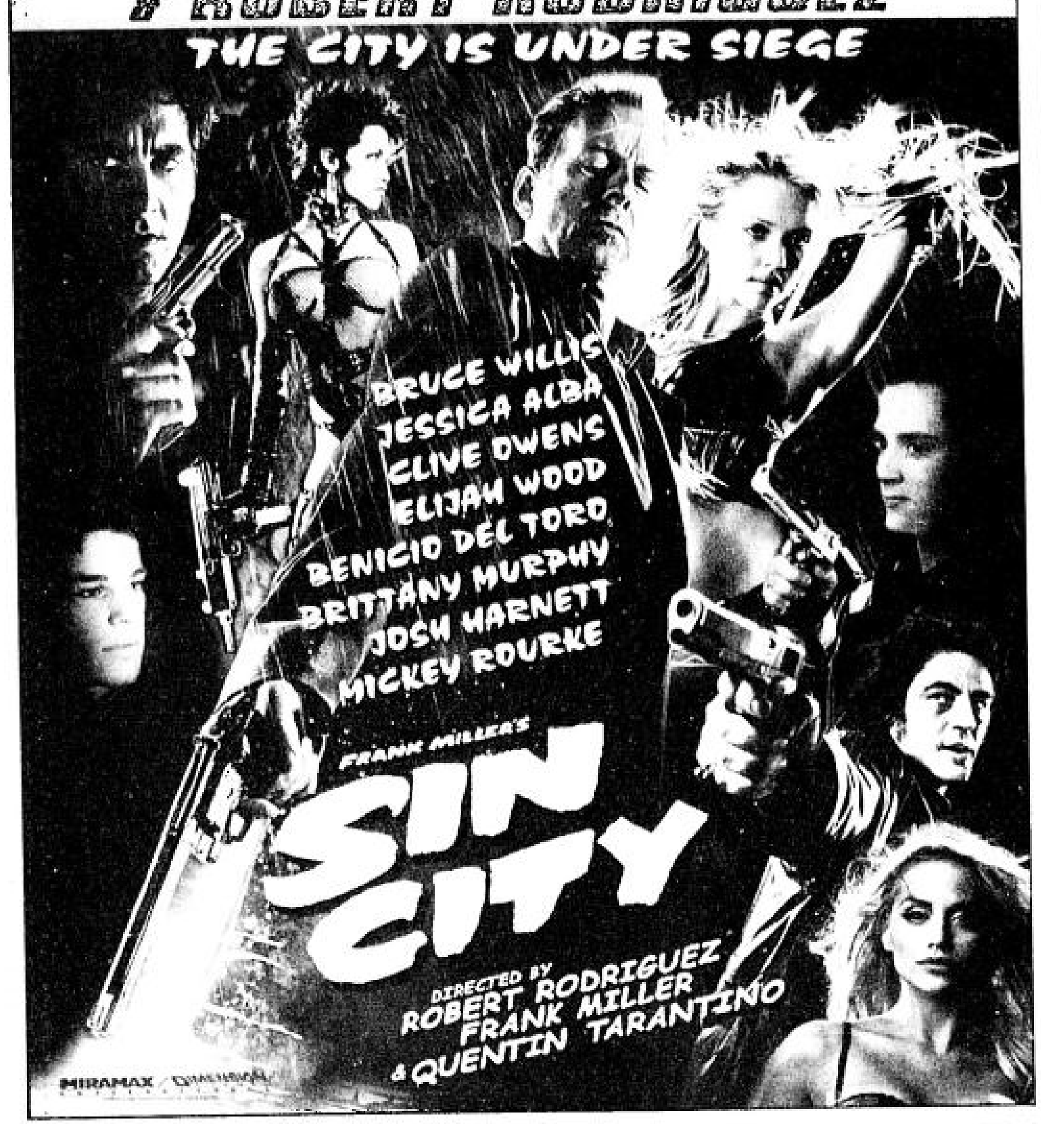
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CINEMA 5	**A LOT LIKE LOVE** PG13	12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

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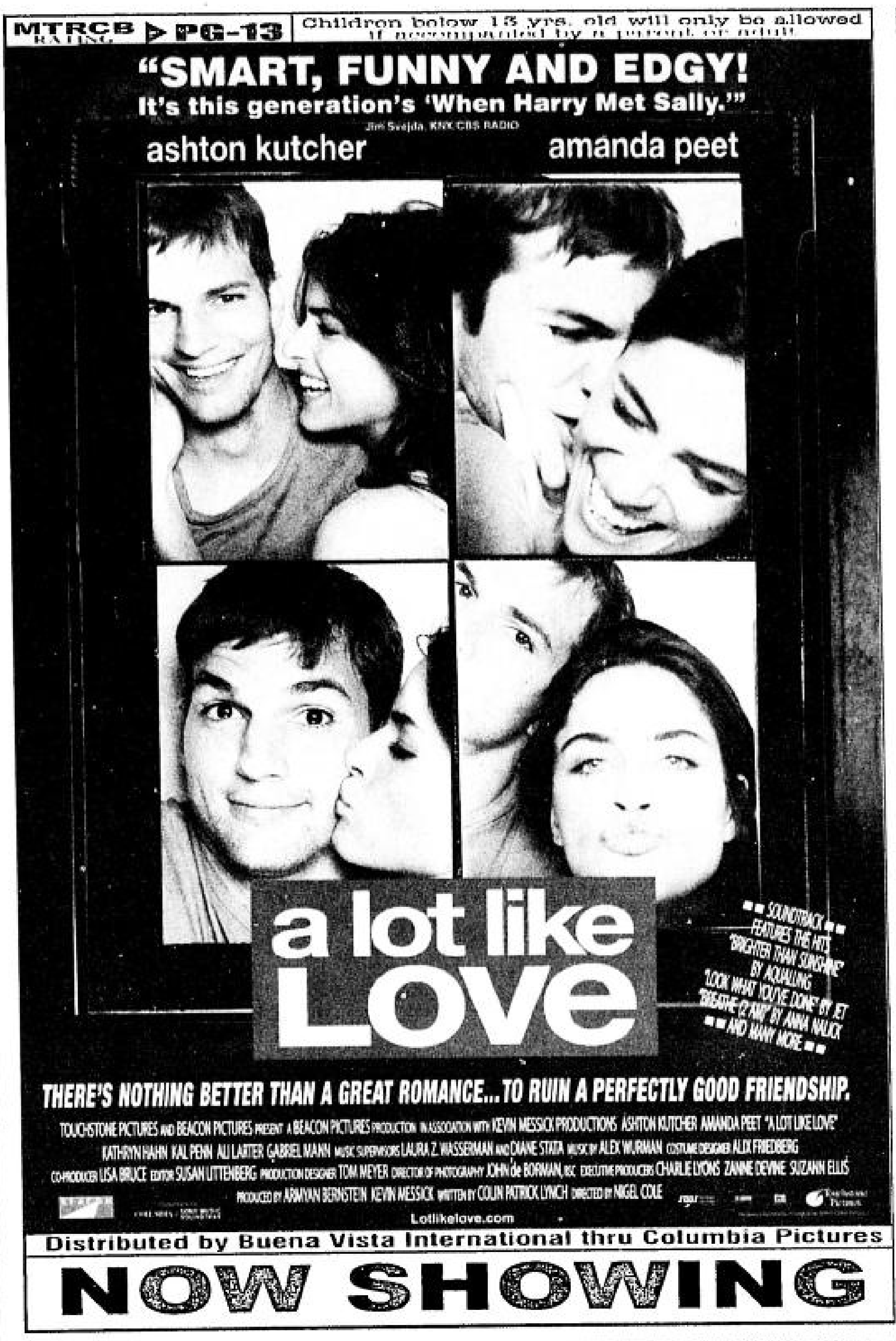
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MICHELLE Yeoh

'Mission' role for Michelle

HONG KONG—Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh has been offered a role in the next "Mission: Impossible," a Hong Kong newspaper reported.

Yeoh—soon to be seen in "Memoirs of a Geisha"—has nearly completed talks with the makers of the third "MI" movie, the Oriental Daily News said.

The blockbuster, starring Tom Cruise, will begin shooting in mid-2005.

Yeoh, an ethnic Chinese actress from Malaysia, has also been approached by the producer of "Young Hannibal"—a follow-up to "The Silence of the Lambs," "Hannibal" and "Red Dragon"—the paper said.

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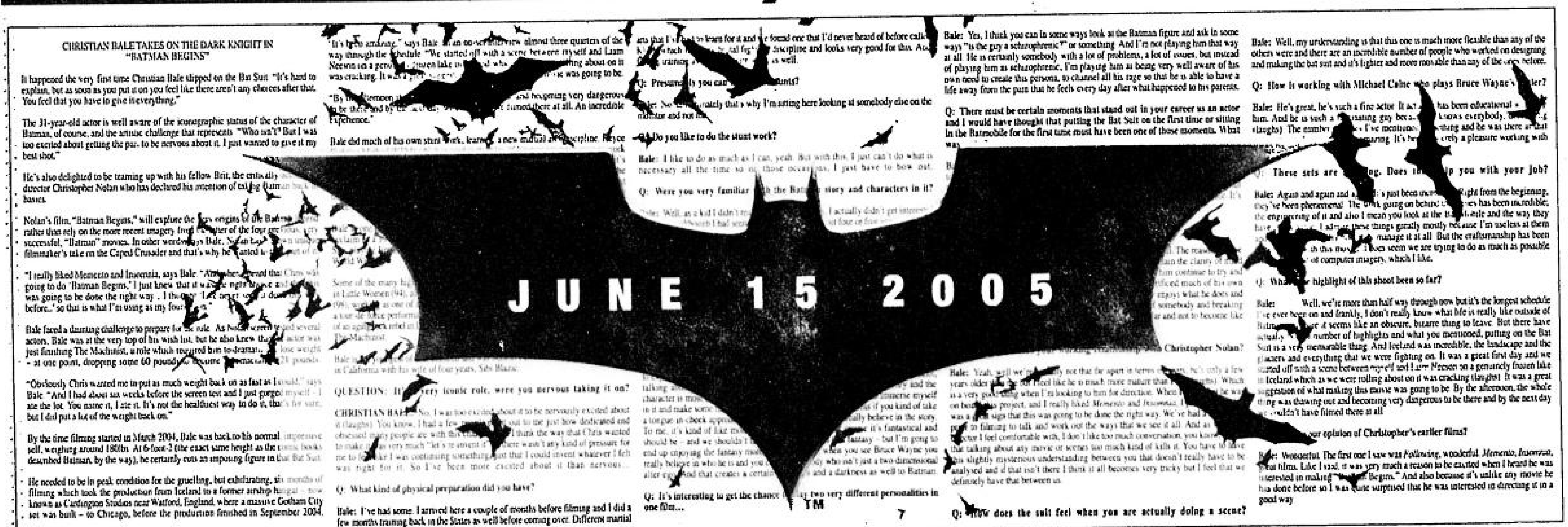

CHRISTIAN BALE TAKES ON THE DARK KNIGHT IN "BATMAN BEGINS"

It happened the very first time Christian Bale slipped on the Bat Suit. "It's hard to explain, but as soon as you put it on you feel like there aren't any choices after that. You feel that you have to give it everything."

The 31-year-old actor is well aware of the iconographic status of the character of Batman, of course, and the artistic challenge that represents. "Who isn't? But I was too excited about getting the part to be nervous about it. I just wanted to give it my best shot."

He's also delighted to be teaming up with his fellow Brit, the critically [illegible] director Christopher Nolan who has declared his intention of taking Batman back [illegible] basics.

Nolan's film, "Batman Begins," will explore the [illegible] origins of the Batman [illegible] rather than rely on the more recent imagery [illegible] of the four previous, very successful, "Batman" movies. In other words, says Bale, Nolan [illegible] filmmaker's take on the Caped Crusader and that's why he wanted [illegible]

"I really liked Memento and Insomnia, says Bale. "And when I heard that Chris was going to do 'Batman Begins,' I just knew that it was the right [illegible] and [illegible] was going to be done the right way. I thought 'I've never seen [illegible] done before..' so that is what I'm using as my four[illegible]."

Bale faced a daunting challenge to prepare for the role. As Nolan screen-tested several actors, Bale was at the very top of his wish list, but he also knew that the actor was just finishing The Machinist, a role which required him to dramatically lose weight – at one point, dropping some 60 pounds [illegible] 21 pounds.

"Obviously Chris wanted me to put as much weight back on as fast as I could," says Bale. "And I had about six weeks before the screen test and I just gorged myself - I ate the lot. You name it, I ate it. It's not the healthiest way to do it, that's for sure, but I did put a lot of the weight back on."

By the time filming started in March 2004, Bale was back to his normal impressive self, weighing around 180lbs. At 6-foot-2 (the exact same height as the comic books described Batman, by the way), he certainly cuts an imposing figure in that Bat Suit.

He needed to be in peak condition for the gruelling, but exhilarating, six months of filming which took the production from Iceland to a former airship hangar – now known as Cardington Studios near Watford, England, where a massive Gotham City set was built – to Chicago, before the production finished in September 2004.

"It's been amazing," says Bale in an on-set interview almost three quarters of the way through the schedule. "We started off with a scene between myself and Liam Neeson on a perfectly frozen lake in [illegible] rolling about on it was cracking. It was a [illegible] was going to be.

"By the afternoon [illegible] and becoming very dangerous to be there and by the next day [illegible] filmed there at all. An incredible experience."

Bale did much of his own stunt work, learning a new martial arts discipline. [illegible]

[illegible]

Some of the many hig[illegible] in Little Women (94), [illegible] (98), [illegible] as one of [illegible] a tour de force performance [illegible] of an agile [illegible] rebel in [illegible] The Machinist.

Bale [illegible] in California with his wife of four years, Sibi Blazic.

QUESTION: It's [illegible] very iconic role, were you nervous taking it on?

CHRISTIAN BALE: No, I was too excited about it to be nervously excited about it (laughs). You know, I had a few people [illegible] out to me just how dedicated and obsessed many people are with this character [illegible] I think the way that Chris wanted to make it was very much "let's re-invent it" [illegible] there wasn't any kind of pressure for me to feel like I was continuing something, just that I could invent whatever I felt was right for it. So I've been more excited about it than nervous...

Q: What kind of physical preparation did you have?

Bale: I've had some. I arrived here a couple of months before filming and I did a few months training back in the States as well before coming over. Different martial arts that I've had to learn for it and we found one that I'd never heard of before called [illegible] fighting discipline and looks very good for this. And [illegible] training [illegible] as well.

Q: Presumably you can't [illegible] stunts?

Bale: No [illegible]nately that's why I'm sitting here looking at somebody else on the monitor and not [illegible]

Q: Do you like to do the stunt work?

Bale: I like to do as much as I can, yeah. But with this, I just can't do what is necessary all the time so on those occasions, I just have to bow out.

Q: Were you very familiar with the Batman story and characters in it?

Bale: Well, as a kid I didn't [illegible] I actually didn't get interested [illegible] I had seen [illegible] four or five [illegible]

[illegible] talking [illegible] character is more [illegible] immerse myself in it and make some [illegible] if you kind of take a tongue in cheek approach [illegible] really believe in the story. To me, it's kind of like [illegible] it's fantastical and should be – and we shouldn't [illegible] fantasy – but I'm going to end up enjoying the fantasy more [illegible] when you see Bruce Wayne you really believe in who he is and you [illegible] somebody who isn't just a two dimensional alter ego. And that creates a certain [illegible] and a darkness as well to Batman.

Q: It's interesting to get the chance to play two very different personalities in one film...

Bale: Yes, I think you can in some ways look at the Batman figure and ask in some ways "is the guy a schizophrenic?" or something. And I'm not playing him that way at all. He is certainly somebody with a lot of problems, a lot of issues, but instead of playing him as schizophrenic, I'm playing him as being very well aware of his own need to create this persona, to channel all his rage so that he is able to have a life away from the pain that he feels every day after what happened to his parents.

Q: There must be certain moments that stand out in your career as an actor and I would have thought that putting the Bat Suit on the first time or sitting in the Batmobile for the first time must have been one of those moments. What was [illegible]

[illegible] The reason [illegible] than the clarity of mind [illegible] him continue to try and [illegible]ficed much of his own [illegible] enjoys what he does and [illegible] somebody and breaking [illegible] and not to become like

Q: [illegible] working relationship with Christopher Nolan?

Bale: Yeah, well we're [illegible] not that far apart in terms of age, he's only a few years older [illegible] but I feel like he is much more mature than [illegible] Which is a very good thing when I'm looking to him for direction. When [illegible] he was on board this project, and I really liked *Memento* and *Insomnia*, I [illegible] was a good sign that this was going to be done the right way. We've had a [illegible] prior to filming to talk and work out the ways that we see it all. And as [illegible] director I feel comfortable with, I don't like too much conversation, you know that talking about any movie or scenes too much kind of kills it. You have to have this slightly mysterious understanding between you that doesn't really have to be analysed and if that isn't there I think it all becomes very tricky but I feel that we definitely have that between us.

Q: How does the suit feel when you are actually doing a scene?

Bale: Well, my understanding is that this one is much more flexible than any of the others were and there are an incredible number of people who worked on designing and making the bat suit and it's lighter and more movable than any of the ones before.

Q: How is working with Michael Caine who plays Bruce Wayne's butler?

Bale: He's great, he's such a fine actor. It [illegible] has been educational [illegible] him. And he is such a [illegible] guy because he knows everybody. [illegible] (laughs). The number [illegible] I've mentioned [illegible] and he was there at that [illegible] amazing. It's been [illegible] only a pleasure working with [illegible]

Q: These sets are [illegible]. Does that help you with your job?

Bale: Again and again and [illegible] just been [illegible] right from the beginning, they've been phenomenal. The work going on behind the scenes has been incredible, the engineering of it and also I mean you look at the [illegible] and the way they have [illegible] I admire these things greatly mostly because I'm useless at them [illegible] manage it at all. But the craftsmanship has been [illegible] in this movie. It does seem we are trying to do as much as possible [illegible] of computer imagery, which I like.

Q: What [illegible] highlight of this shoot been so far?

Bale: Well, we're more than half way through now but it's the longest schedule I've ever been on and frankly, I don't really know what life is really like outside of Batman [illegible] it seems like an obscure, bizarre thing to leave. But there have actually [illegible] number of highlights and what you mentioned, putting on the Bat Suit is a very memorable thing. And Iceland was incredible, the landscape and the glaciers and everything that we were fighting on. It was a great first day and we started off with a scene between myself and Liam Neeson on a genuinely frozen lake in Iceland which as we were rolling about on it was cracking (laughs). It was a great suggestion of what making this movie was going to be. By the afternoon, the whole thing was thawing out and becoming very dangerous to be there and by the next day [illegible] couldn't have filmed there at all.

Q: [illegible] your opinion of Christopher's earlier films?

Bale: Wonderful. The first one I saw was *Following*, wonderful. *Memento*, *Insomnia*, great films. Like I said, it was very much a reason to be excited when I heard he was interested in making "Batman Begins." And also because it's unlike any movie he has done before so I was quite surprised that he was interested in directing it in a good way.

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② **MADAGASCAR** MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	④ **STAR WARS III** MTRCB GP 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

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'06 deficit seen at ₱89B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT expects a drastic reduction in its 2006 budget deficit to P89 billion, or 1.5 percent of gross domestic product, from this year's "emerging" target of P151 billion (2.8 percent of GDP), as it starts reaping full-year benefits from newly enacted tax measures.

A source from the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said late Wednesday that the fiscal situation in 2006 would be a lot better with the full-year implementation of the value added tax reform law and other revenue raising measures. The budget deficit ceiling for next year was originally set at P162 billion.

The improved fiscal projections were presented recently by government economic managers to a visiting review team from global rating agency Standard & Poor's.

"The improvement is due to VAT and other measures. From the six taxes, you'll have about P15 billion in additional revenue and from new administrative measures, another P20 billion," the source said.

The DBCC source said the government could even be considered conservative in assuming a mere 70 percent efficiency in VAT collection.

The new VAT law immediately removed the exemptions granted to certain products and services, including petroleum products. It also granted President Macapagal-Arroyo the authority to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent if the government's budget deficit accounted for more than 1.5 percent of gross domestic product or if VAT collections surpassed 2.8 percent of GDP.

The conditions specified under the VAT package gave the government enough leeway to raise the rate to 12 percent by next year.

From the VAT measure alone, the government expects to generate P31 billion in additional revenue this year and P105 billion in 2006.

Early this year, Congress also approved an increase in the excise taxes on cigarettes and liquor, as well as a system of rewards and penalties for revenue-collecting agencies.

The DBCC, however, has yet to adopt the latest projection for 2006 as an official target.

Under the government's medium-term development plan approved earlier this year, the target deficit for 2005 would reach 3.6 percent of GDP and 2.9 percent of GDP next year.

In 2004, the government kept its budget deficit at P187.1 billion, or 3.9 percent of GDP. The government hopes to attain a balanced budget by 2010.

Despite recent progress in fiscal reforms, the visiting team from S&P said it was not likely to upgrade its sovereign credit rating on the Philippines in the near future as the country was still grappling with vulnerabilities arising from its huge debts.

Gov't to sell RPN-9 this year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is scouting for a financial adviser for the planned privatization of sequestered television station Radio Philippines Network (RPN-9), which the Privatization Management Office (PMO) plans to sell within the year.

Newly appointed PMO Chief Privatization Officer Jose Vicente Bengzon III said the financial adviser would be tasked to appraise the physical assets of RPN-9 and come up with a valuation of the company.

"We can either sell only the assets or sell both the assets and the government's shares in the company. We will leave it to the financial adviser to decide," Bengzon said in an interview with reporters.

Bengzon, who assumed office last May 12, said it was necessary to tap the services of a financial adviser since the privatization of RPN-9 involved complex issues, including the matter of its receivables.

A financial adviser will be selected through a bidding on June 27.

The sale of RPN-9 is in line with the government's efforts to raise additional revenues through the privatization of state assets.

The Department of Finance earlier said the

GOV'T/ B4

INDICATORS

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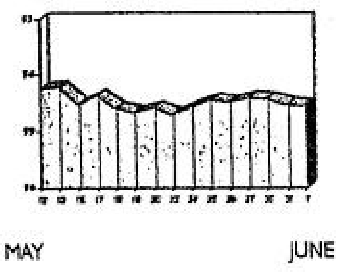

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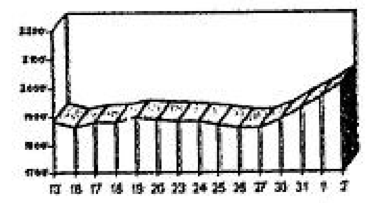


(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices yesterday closed 2.35 percent higher and broke the key 2,000-point mark as improved fiscal and economic prospects for the country continued to underpin the market, dealers said.

They said the market had consolidated below the 1,900 level for several weeks, and investors saw the decline as an opportunity to pick up cheap stocks.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 46.25 points to the day's high of 2,010.56. It traded at a low of 1,964.31.

It was the composite index's highest closing level since March 21.

Turnover reached 922.1 million shares worth P1.999 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 21.05 points to 1,211.62.

Gainers beat losers 60 to 21, with 44 stocks ending unchanged.

"We saw a continuation of the rally that begun early this week, driven by a more positive outlook on the economy," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

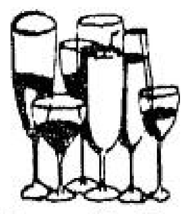
"They felt the market has been oversold, and given the positive outlook on the economy in the second half, investors felt it was time to take positions," he added.'

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

BSP keeps policy rates steady /B2

Honda recalls Civic units /B2



Inequitable rumbling
COCKTALES /B3

DMCI pursues Maynilad shares /B4

Palengke price watch /B2

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No changes in Bangko Sentral's key policy rates

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to keep its policy rates unchanged, saying that, despite relatively high inflation, there was not enough pressure to tighten monetary policy.

In yesterday's meeting of the BSP Monetary Board, officials said that the policy rates would remain at 7 percent for overnight borrowing, and 9.25 percent for overnight lending.

The BSP, in a statement, explained that current inflationary risks are still caused by supply-side or cost-push factors, and not by an abnormally heightened demand. It cited the passage of the value-added tax bill that imposed VAT on oil and electricity, and the still soaring prices of oil.

Monetary tightening, one way of which is to raise policy rates, is normally resorted to when inflation is accelerating due to increasing demand. Raising policy rates, which are used as benchmarks by banks in pricing loans, discourages borrowing.

"These factors [VAT law and high oil prices] are expected to push future inflation path upward in the short term, but are unlikely to have a lasting impact on prices in the absence of sustained shocks," the BSP said.

The BSP likewise said that while inflation was relatively high, there is the possibility that it would ease off in the coming months. Inflation stood at 8.5 percent in the first four months of the year, but the BSP earlier projected that the figure would likely slide to an average of 7.8 percent toward the end of the year.

The country's gross domestic product grew by only 4.6 percent in the first quarter of the year compared with the 6.4 percent during the same period last year, and the 6.1 percent average for the whole of 2004.

The slower growth was attributed to a host of external factors like soaring prices in the world market and decreasing global demand that has impacted on Philippine exports.

"There is a need to preserve the conditions for continued expansion in aggregate demand given emerging indications of the contractionary impact of the oil shock and the expected impact of fiscal adjustment via VAT reform on growth in the short run," the BSP said.

The BSP said that the latest increase in policy rates last April 7 should be given time to fully work its way into the economy and exert its impact on inflation expectations before another round of monetary tightening should be done.

The policy rate hike in April raised the rates from 6.75 percent for overnight borrowing and 9 percent for overnight lending.

Michelle V. Remo

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Palengke price watch

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST week, key leaders of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition in the country, met with Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri. During the meetings, which took place 3 days apart, the subject of monitoring wet market prices, or a Palengke price watch, was raised.

With the recent passage of the law increasing the Value Added Tax (VAT), prices of basic commodities are expected to rise.

The danger is that many retailers in the wet market or *palengke* will take advantage of the VAT hike and increase prices more than they should.

Market cartels

An unreasonable increase in the prices of agricultural products will place a heavy burden on poor consumers.

Also, in cases where farmgate prices have increased minimally but where cartels in the wet markets have decided jointly to increase prices to an unjustifiable level, the government sometimes mistakenly assumes that there is a shortage.

It then authorizes imports under exceptionally low tariffs that cause an oversupply. This results in the loss of jobs, and threatens food security. It also causes a disincentive for future production.

Gregorio San Diego, national president of the United Broilers and Retailers Association (Ubra), cites the July 2004 incident where poultry farmgate prices went down while the palengke retail prices were kept high by the cartels.

Thinking that the high retail prices indicated a lack of supply, the government initially authorized the importation of 10 million kilos of poultry under especially favorable terms.

This was reduced to 5 million kilos by more enlightened government officials. Nevertheless, the harm had been done. The result was a market glut that hurt the poultry industry.

Other cases

At the meeting with the Economic Planning secretary last May 26, San Diego cited another case where a Marikina market sold dressed chicken at P87 a kilo, while a market in a nearby municipality getting chicken from the same source sold this at P95.

According to San Diego, a mechanism is needed to prevent cartels from taking advantage of the consumers.

A similar incident occurred in the mid 1990s. The Maypajo and Sangandaan markets in Caloocan are only a few kilometers apart. But the cartel at the Sangandaan market kept the pork *liempo* price at P10 to P20 per kilo higher than the Maypajo rates.

The implementation of two laws stopped this cartel practice, and the prices in both markets soon approximated each other. Today, these laws are not vigorously implemented.

Two laws

The Price Tag Law requires retail outlets to post the prices of all products for sale. Though the retailer may decrease the price due to bargaining with consumers, the retailer is not allowed to sell above the posted price.

The price tag forces retailers to compete with each other. Since there is now transparency because of the price tags, and given the price consciousness of most consumers, the retailers tend to post the lowest prices so that they can succeed in selling their goods. This usually brings down the general price level.

The absence of a price tag constitutes a violation of the law and the retail store is subject to closure by the mayor and a fine by the Department of Agriculture for agricultural products.

However, this still does not address the situation where a wet market cartel uniformly agrees on a high price for a given product. This is where the second law comes in. The Price Act enables the government to charge a retailer for profiteering. This is defined as "the sale or offering for sale of any basic necessity or prime commodity at a price grossly in excess of its true worth."

Suggested retail price

There is a Suggested Retail Price (SRP) that helps determine the "true worth" of a product, which is used as the basis for a profiteering charge. For agricultural products, this can be computed by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

The SRP is the farmgate price plus the reasonable margins given to middlemen. This price is announced through media for the public's guidance. Selling a product at a price significantly above the SRP is considered profiteering.

Unlike price control, where selling above the stated price is an automatic violation, the SRP serves merely as a guide that allows for justifiable deviations from the price. It is therefore superior to price control, which is often counterproductive and should be used only in cases of emergency.

When the Mayor closes down even for a day a retail outlet for violation of the Price Tag Law or the anti-profiteering section of the Price Act, word spreads quickly throughout the market and prices go down.

Joint action

We believe now is the appropriate time to rigidly apply these laws. Four days ago, Mayor Ramon Guico, president of the Municipal Mayors' League of the Philippines, agreed to make this a priority concern.

Farmer and fisherfolk leaders must now join hands with consumers and local government officials to do a Palengke Price Watch. In this way, market cartels will cease their profiteering operations, consumers will get lower prices, and the farmers will no longer be mistakenly blamed for jacking up prices.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

Honda recalls 12,000 Civic units for parts replacement

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. is calling on all owners of 2001-2004 Honda Civics to get in touch with any authorized Honda dealer or service outlet for the replacement of the metal bands that hold the fuel tank in place.

Locally-made metal bands have been found to be longer, causing the slackening of the metal bands that hold the fuel tank in place. Continuous vibration may weaken the bands over time. This may cause the bands to snap which, in turn, may cause the fuel tank to detach.

In February 2004, the first reported case of metal band failure prompted HCPI to conduct an investigation. Ten cases have been reported to date and have been acted on by HCPI.

HCPI is taking this voluntary safety recall campaign to replace all fuel tank bands of affected units. There are a total of 12,480 units of Honda Civic units affected.

Letters of notice had been sent to concerned Civic owners. To conduct the campaign in an orderly manner, customers are requested to call their respective dealers, or the Honda Hotline at 1-800-1000-HONDA (46632), for inquiries and details of scheduling. Replacement of affected parts will be carried out in all 20 authorized Honda dealers nationwide, free of charge, beginning June 6.

All Civic units manufactured beginning January 2005 have been corrected and therefore are not included in this campaign. Other Honda models such as the Honda CRV, City, Accord, Jazz, HRV, Odyssey and Legend are likewise not included.

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Inequitable rumbling

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

EQUITABLE PCIBank director Fulgencio Factoran Jr. has apparently been emboldened by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima's directive for GSIS and SSS board nominees in listed corporations to defend minority shareholders' rights and raise levels of corporate governance.

The former Aquino environment and natural resources secretary has drafted a letter taking to task GMA adviser Roberto R. Romulo and his fellow independent directors in Equitable PCIBank.

Factoran's beef: Romulo, Cesar Bautista, Antonio Basilio and bank president Rene Buenaventura have allegedly been acting with "manifest partiality" to the Go family "to the clear prejudice of the other shareholders of the bank."

"This is a patent violation of the tenets of good corporate governance that we believe should not go unchallenged," said Factoran, a nominee previously of GSIS, and now of the Social Security System.

According to the grapevine, Factoran sent a copy of the letter to SSS president/CEO Corazon dela Paz, who now wants it toned down so as not to antagonize Romulo and company before affixing her signature.

Factoran's letter detailed "scandalous" instances wherein Romulo and company helped prop up the "artificial majority" and maintain the Gos' "vise-like grip" on the bank.

"We are sending copies of this letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to the Institute of Corporate Governance firstly that it may be used … as a classic case study for corporate ill-governance, and that the appropriate regulatory agencies may perhaps take action to obviate such situations in the future, whether in this bank or in any other publicly listed company," Factoran said.

Factoran, Dela Paz and GSIS president Winston Garcia have been at loggerheads with the Gos on how the family has unilaterally appropriated the 10-percent "treasury" shares held by an investment house subsidiary, instead of voting the block pro rata among the different shareholders' group.

Faced with adverse Bangko Sentral and court rulings, the Gos last year rendered the issue academic by disqualifying a number of SSS and GSIS nominee-directors, and, in their stead, electing a number of "independent" directors.

To prevent a repeat of a last-minute disenfranchisement, both the SSS and GSIS have proposed to schedule a nominations committee meeting at least 10 days before the next stockholders' meeting in July, thus giving time to those who may be disqualified to seek redress.

"This is important because the by-laws provide that the decisions of the nominations committee may not be challenged at the stockholders' meeting itself," Dela Paz said in another memo.

Her suggestion was promptly shot down by the Gos, with Romulo and company seconding, during a tumultuous board meeting last week.

COCKTALES/ B4

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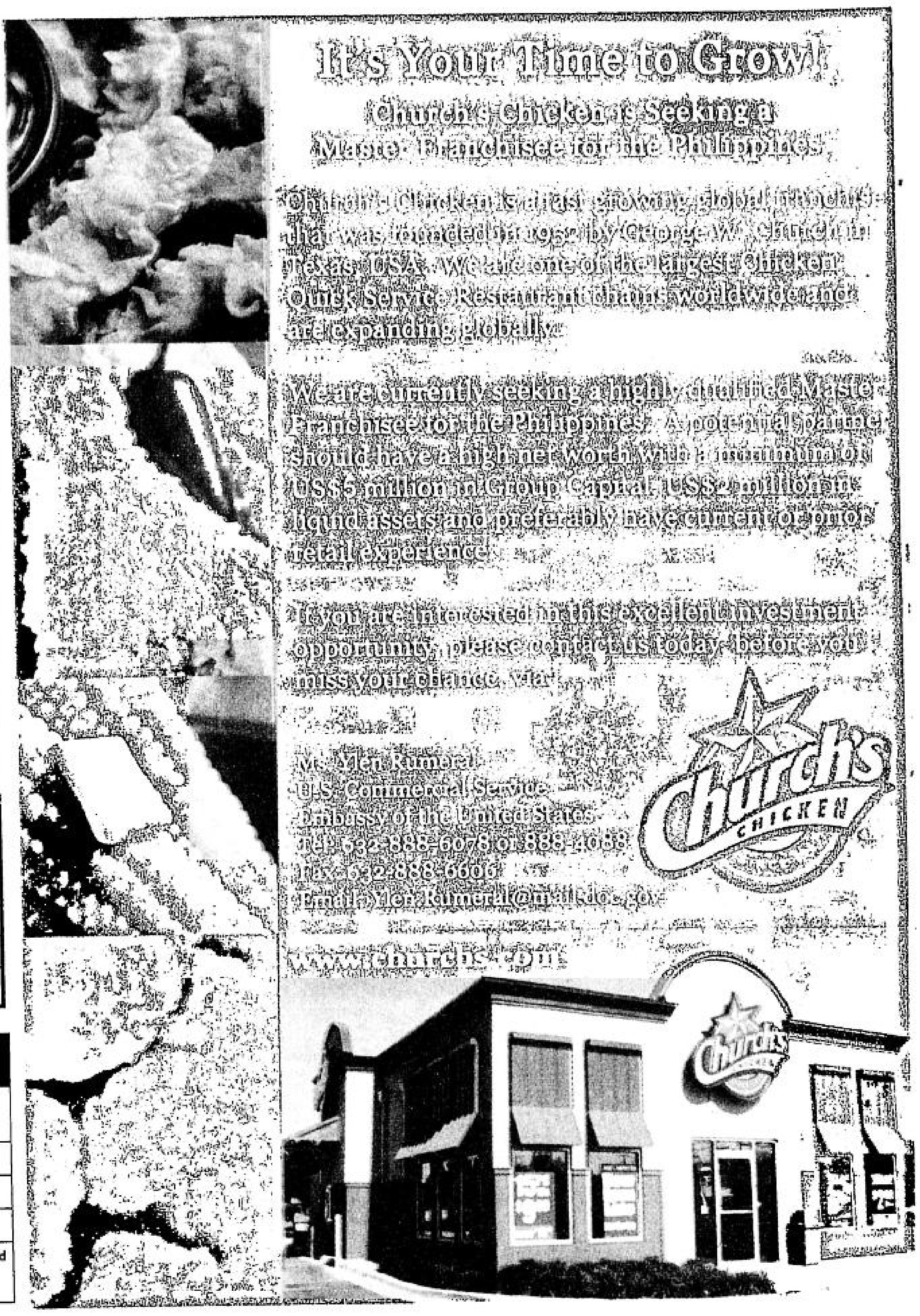
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.



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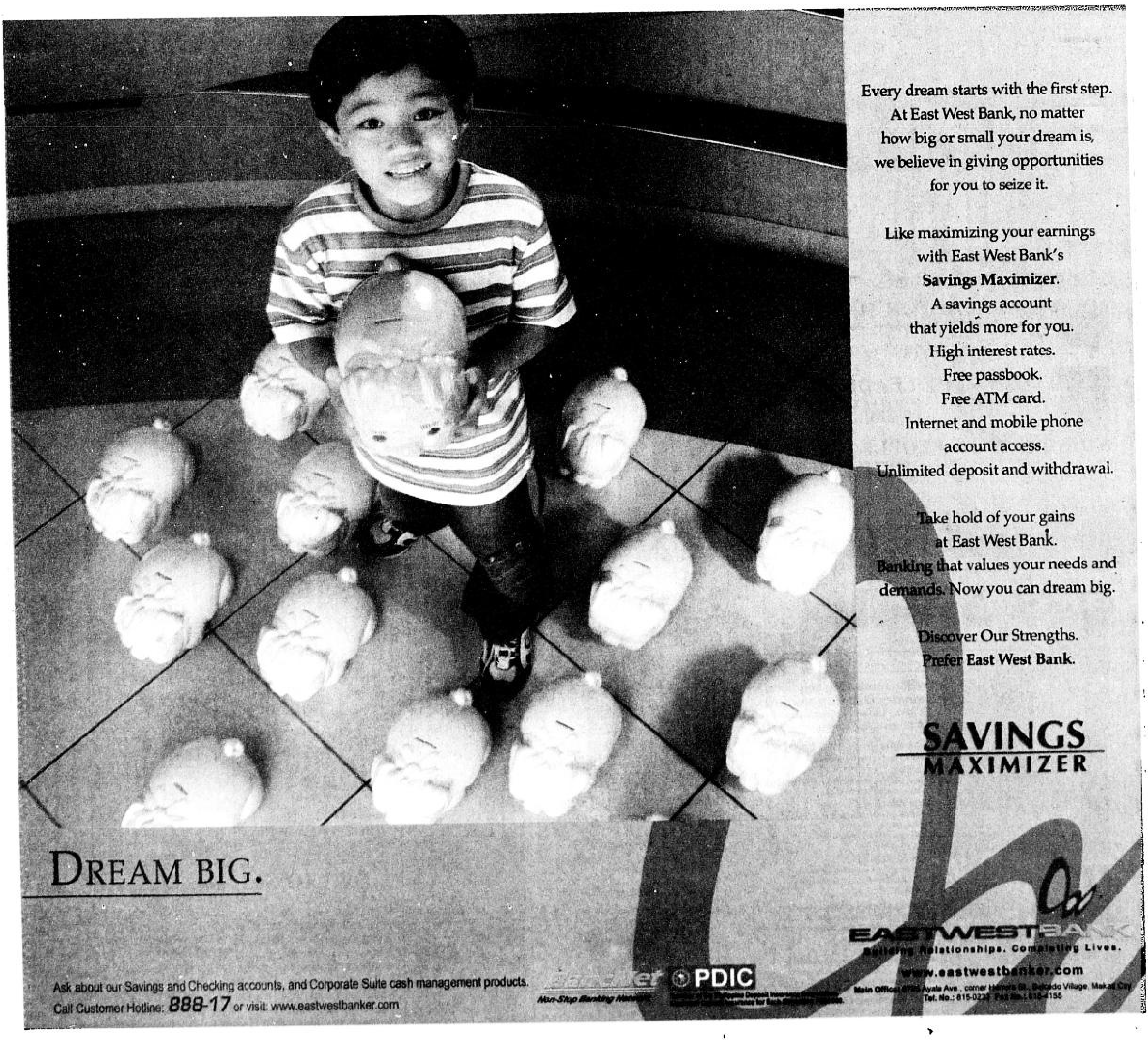

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DMCI pursues Maynilad shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Christine A. Gaylican

DMCI Holdings Inc. is keen on acquiring the 16-percent stake held by French water utility Lyonnaise Asia water (Holdings) Pte. Ltd. in west zone water distributor, Maynilad Water Services Inc., said DMCI chief financial officer Herbert Consunji.

Consunji told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that DMCI was looking to acquire the shares under the provisions set under Maynilad's rehabilitation plan, which was approved last Wednesday by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 90 Judge Reynaldo Daway.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and designated receiver Rosario Bernaldo are currently preparing the guidelines in selecting a new investor for Maynilad.

"We would want to make sure that the new investor will have the financial capability and expertise in running a water service business," Bernaldo told the INQUIRER.

She said the MWSS would create a technical working group to draw up these guidelines.

According to the rehabilitation plan, Maynilad's majority shareholder, Benpres Holdings Inc., will formally exit and sell all of its shares in Maynilad, which means a write-off of the Lopez group's P3.06 billion in equity and P621 million in advances made to Maynilad.

Shares of Benpres' French partner Lyonnaise Asia Water (Holdings) Pte Limited (formerly Ondeo Philippines and Suez Lyonnais des Eaux), meanwhile, will be reduced to 16 percent.

The ownership of Maynilad will then be transferred back to MWSS, which will end up with 84 percent, Benpres said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

To show that it has the financial muscle needed to take over Maynilad, sources said DMCI was setting aside $27 million in capital from internally-generated funds to bankroll Maynilad's rehabilitation.

DMCI was scheduled to take a close look at Maynilad's financial books next week. It hopes to complete its due diligence in a month's time.

DMCI has received several offers from foreign investors for possible partnerships in its bid for Maynilad, but has yet to decide on which firms it will include in its team. Japan's Marubeni Corp. has been mentioned as a possible partner.

Ayala-led Manila Water Co., which has also expressed interest in taking over Maynilad, said the approval of the rehabilitation plan was a "positive development" which should enable MWSS and Maynilad to improve customer service.

Cocktales

From page B3

Factoran said he had been compelled to write the letter "because our objections and comments are somehow diluted or expunged from the minutes of the meetings."

"Yes, we challenge the impartiality of the corporate secretary as well," he added.

To Romulo, Bautista, Basilio and Buenaventura, Factoran ended his putative letter with the following message:

"Finally, we are writing this letter in the hope that you may reflect seriously on what is fair, decent, and honorable in the circumstances and you will act accordingly in the future.

"Frankly, we are not optimistic."

Aranetas in the doghouse

THIS year may well be remembered as *annus horribilis* for old-money brothers Linggoy and Iking Araneta, Linggoy for his high-profile legal troubles with ATR-Kim Eng investment house and Iking, for having been thrown out of his North Forbes house.

Better known as the father of model Bianca Araneta, Enrique "Iking" Araneta last week had to vacate posthaste his former house at 26 Cambridge Circle after learning that a SWAT team was on its way to eject him and his bodyguards.

According to the banking grapevine, Araneta had earlier sold the house to a certain "Reyes," who in turn borrowed money from iBank using the Cambridge property as collateral.

To make a long story short, the bank foreclosed on the property after the loan had gone sour.

Last month, Araneta allegedly went back and sought permission from the bank-posted guards if he could park his van inside and retrieve his remaining belongings. Once inside, armed men streamed out of the van, disarmed the iBank guards, and took over the property.

An infuriated iBank in turn flexed its muscle, and obtained police protection to enforce its rights.

Last we heard, Araneta was in the United States.

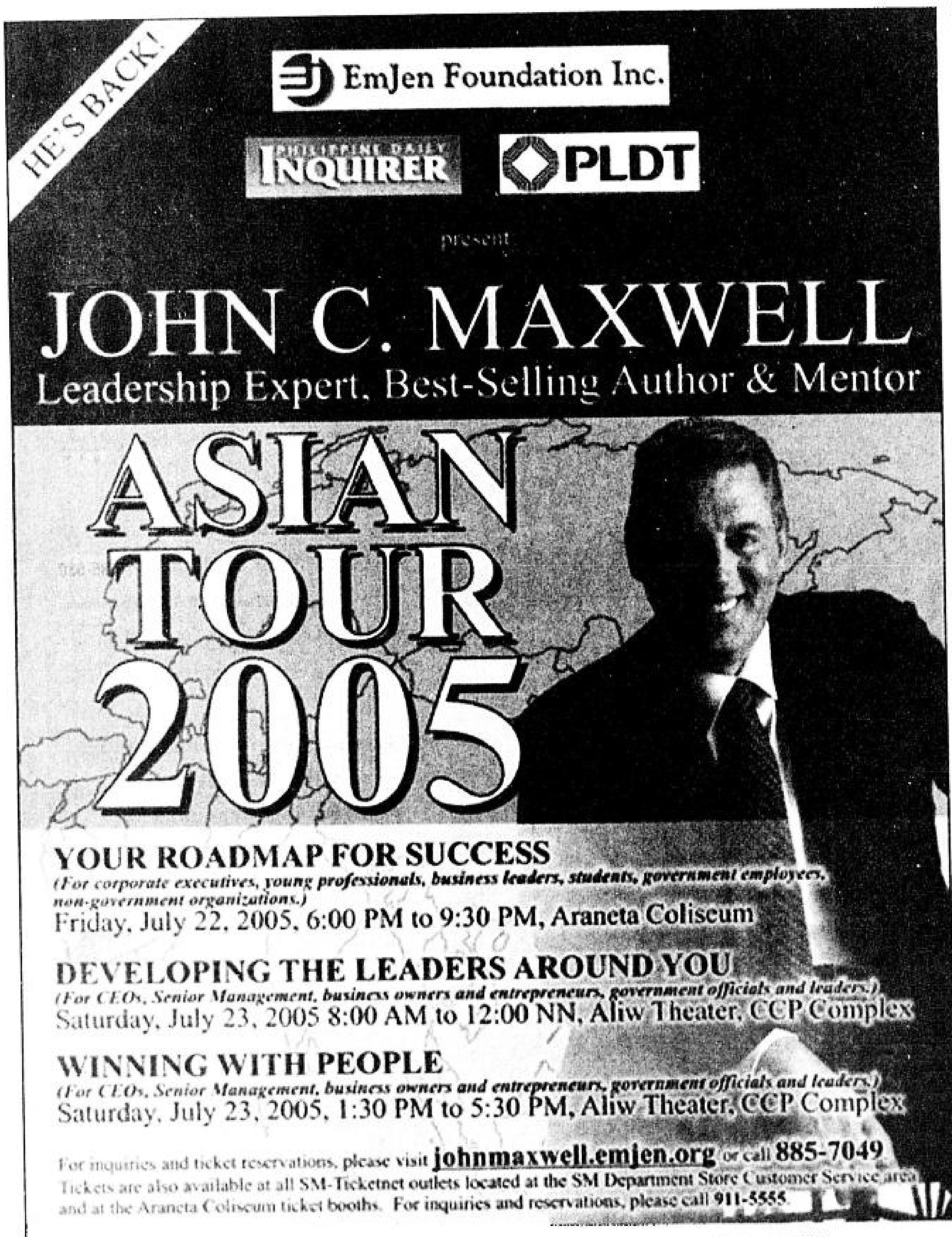
Money-go-round

- MANUEL V. Pangilinan has reported that his PLDT shareholdings as of end-May had reached 97,358 shares, from 88,874 shares as of end-2004. That pile was worth more than P155 million in yesterday's market closing.
- THE HEIRS of the late Tomas Aguirre of Banco Filipino/BF Homes are still slugging it out in court over their inheritance, with half-sister Catherine Aguirre now being subjected to written interrogatories about several bank withdrawals amounting to more than P110 million.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Philippine Women's University is pleading that it be allowed one more school year extension before it voluntarily vacates the one-hectare portion of its Edsa campus to Jardine Land, but the Hong Kong company, already several times bitten, is not inclined to grant yet another grace period.

The HK developer had already warned the faculty and students that their classes could be disrupted as a result of the impending takeover. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*



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STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32.5	32	32	737,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	1,453,600
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	5,960
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	620,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	53.5	51.5	52	312,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	53,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	31.5	30	31.5	1,287,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	17,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	6,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	32,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1680	1680	1680	1680	470
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	84,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	7,933,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	845	885	845	875	113,620
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	35,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	4,886,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1550	1600	1550	1595	238,160
Ivantage Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	820,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	19,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	16	16	81,700
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24.5	23.75	24	912,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.6	17,946,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	5,334,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	179,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.68	1.68	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	8.1	7.8	8.1	3,002,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	450,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	3,759,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	410,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.75	3.55	3.7	3,638,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	284,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.9	3.2	3.3	51,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	32	32	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30	30.5	29.5	30	1,027,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	59.5	58	59.5	123,800
San Miguel Corp. B	90	91.5	90	91.5	245,400
Universal Robina Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	116,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	70,000,000
Ayala Corp.	377.5	382.5	360	370	251,840
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.2	5	5.2	3,269,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.033	0.03	0.032	18,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	164,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	480,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	52,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.73	0.59	0.73	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.06	47,554,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	3,150,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	1,260,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	2,362,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	150,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.8	9	8.8	9	2,510,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	51.5	49.5	51.5	1,669,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	550,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.09	0.0875	0.0875	2,600,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.45	3,982,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.9	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.46	18,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.37	0.38	43,240,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	110,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	252.5	250	252.5	1,618,510
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	10,340,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,700,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.3	2,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0975	0.1	0.0975	0.0975	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	6,528,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	1,327,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	290,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.5	12	11.5	11.75	905,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.1	13,393,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	63,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	390,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	5,520,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	2,210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	20,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.58	1.5	1.58	16,686,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.245	0.2	0.245	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.58	600,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.14	0.155	0.14	0.155	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	66,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	225,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.3	8	8.1	13,394,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	69,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.65	4.9	4.65	4.8	962,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.33	5,320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.38	0.35	0.36	36,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	50,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	47,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	196,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.93	770,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.12	1.06	1.06	5,377,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	33	498,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	600,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	31,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	15,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.34	2.34	127,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.16	0.165	0.155	0.16	10,320,000

CURRENCIES

June 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.822368421	1.000000	54.5370
Japan	Yen	0.007557	0.009189	0.5011
United Kingdom	Pound	1.487089	1.808300	98.6193
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105646	0.128465	7.0061
Switzerland	Franc	0.652829	0.793840	43.2937
Canada	Dollar	0.658422	0.800641	43.6646
Singapore	Dollar	0.489914	0.595735	32.4896
Australia	Dollar	0.617208	0.750525	40.9314
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.181406	2.652590	144.6643
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219299	0.266667	14.5432
Brunei	Dollar	0.488458	0.593965	32.3931
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020235	0.024606	1.3419
UAE	Dirham	0.223914	0.272279	14.8493
Euro	Euro	1	1.216000	66.3170
Argentina	Peso	0.285544	0.347222	18.9364
Brazil	REAL	0.337382	0.410256	22.3741
Denmark	Kroner	0.134475	0.163522	8.9180
India	Rupee	0.018814	0.022878	1.2477
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216442	0.263193	14.3538
Mexico	New Peso	0.076025	0.092447	5.0418
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575002	0.699203	38.1324
Norway	Kroner	0.126649	0.154005	8.3990
Pakistan	Rupee	0.01381	0.016793	0.9158
South Africa	Rand	0.11904	0.144753	7.8944
Korea	Won	0.000814	0.000990	0.0540
Sweden	Kroner	0.109366	0.132989	7.2528
Syria	Pound	0.015842	0.019264	1.0506
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026274	0.031949	1.7424
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000383	0.000466	0.0254

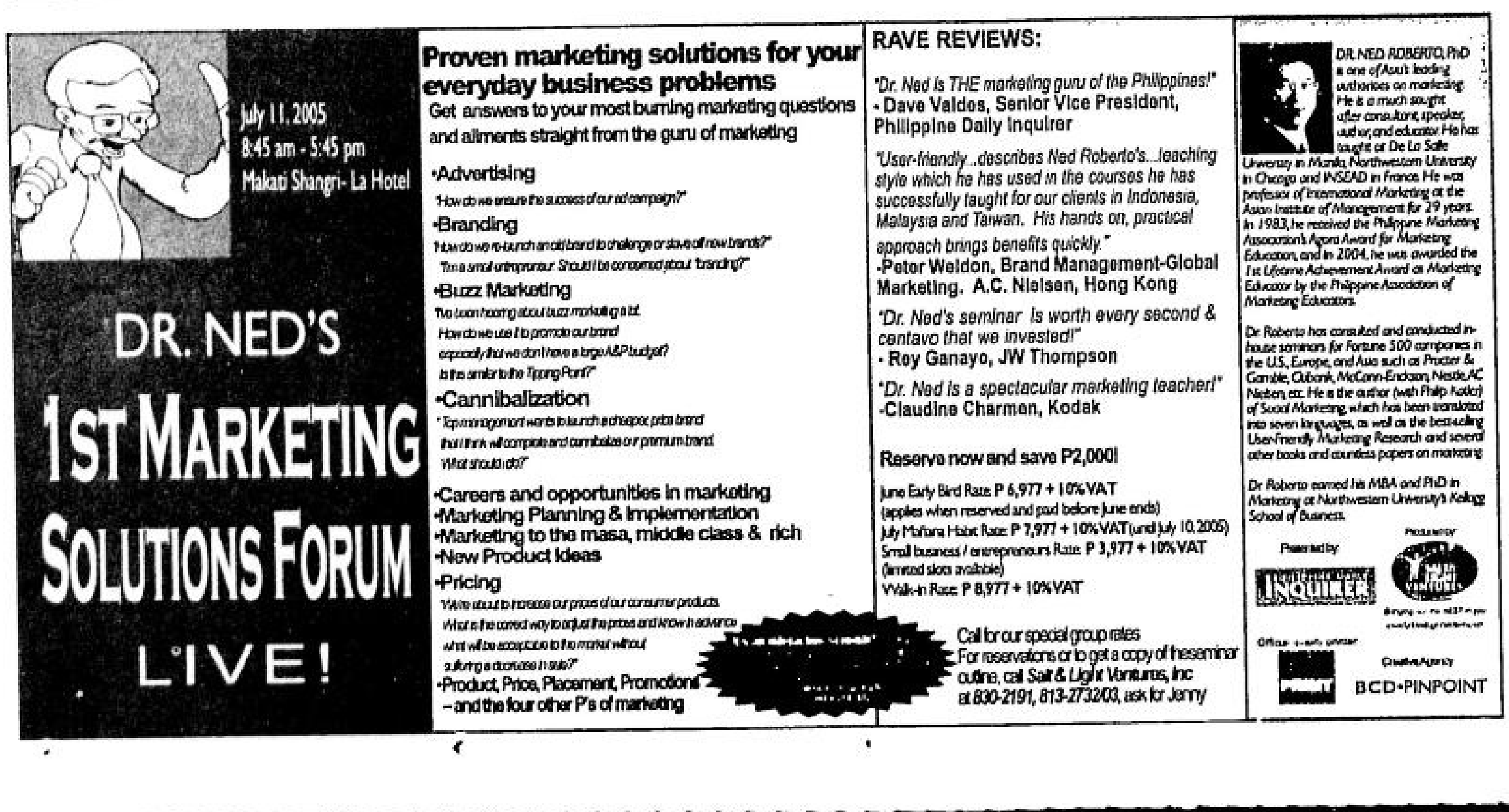
Gov't to sell . . .

From page B1

government would strengthen its privatization program this year to make it a key source of funds for essential infrastructure spending.

The DOF recently put up a privatization team headed by Finance Undersecretary Jay Singson to boost the government's privatization efforts. The DOF is part of the inter-agency Privatization Council.

The DOF also said other state-owned television stations would be sold soon but that RPN-9 was the first in line. The others are Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC-13) and NBN Channel 4.



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- Buzz Marketing
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  "Top management wants to launch a cheaper, price brand that I think will compete and cannibalize our premium brand. What should I do?"
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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award as Marketing Educator by the Philippine Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the bestselling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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MAKATI

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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- Makati area
- Fully furnished
- Area: 113 sqm. + 1 parking slot
- 8.8 M
- Negotiable

OFFICE
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QUEZON CITY

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SAN JUAN

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LOT

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Marbelal 1BR P15T 9254566

QUEZON CITY

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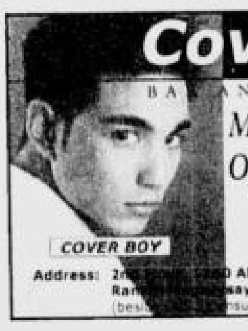

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CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 532-2222 / 532-3146

June 3, 2005

INVITATION TO BID

The CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC (CENPELCO) thru Board Resolution No. 46 Series of 2005, invites interested parties to bid on the disposal of the following scrap materials and equipments, to wit:

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS / MATERIALS

A.	Kilowatt Hour Meter with Glass Cover (Assorted Brands)	8,120 pcs.
B.	Kilowatt Hour Meter with Broken Glass (Assorted Brands)	5,070 pcs.
C.	Distribution Transformer with Core (Assorted Brands & KVA)	122 units
D.	Transformer Casing Only (Empty)	59 pcs.
E.	Generator Kubota Engine, 2HP	1 unit
F.	Recloser	8 units
G.	Transformer Oil Drums	28 drums
H.	Assorted Aluminum / TW Wires (Approximate)	200 kgs.

SALVAGE / NON-USABLE MATERIALS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENTS

A.	Auto Batteries (Different Sizes and Brands)	140 pcs.
B.	Auto Tires (Different Sizes and Brands)	383 pcs.
C.	Air Condition Units (Incomplete Accessories)	9 units
D.	Office Equipments	
1.	Type Writer	20 units
2.	Xerox Machine	2 units
3.	Electronic Bundy Clock	1 unit
4.	Entercom	1 unit
5.	Stapler	38 pcs.
6.	Adding Machine	38 pcs.
7.	Calculator	54 pcs.
E.	Computers	
1.	Keyboard	12 pcs.
2.	CPU	12 pcs.
3.	Monitor	16 pcs.
4.	Regulated Power Supply	21 units
5.	Printer	12 pcs.
6.	Transreceiver Radio	1 pc.
F.	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts / Junk Materials (Approximate)	2,500 kls.
G.	Empty Drums	50 pcs.
H.	Junk Vehicles	
1.	Pick-up with Engine	1 unit
2.	Kia Ford with Engine	4 units
3.	Owner Jeep with Engine	1 unit
4.	Boom Truck with Engine	1 unit
5.	Pick-up without Engine	1 unit
6.	Kia Ford without Engine	1 unit
7.	Ford without Engine	1 unit
8.	Engine, Assorted Brands	11 units
9.	Motorcycle (Assorted Brands)	
	a. with engine	9 units
	b. without Engine	3 units
10.	Panel Board	3 pcs.

Terms will be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. A ten percent (10%) bidder's bond in cash or Cashier's/Manager's check should accompany the bid. Minimum bid price is PHP 900,000.00. Interested parties are requested to coordinate with PBAC Chairman for the inspection of materials prior to bidding schedule.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PBAC on or before 3:00 PM on June 16, 2005 at CENPELCO Board Room where the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders. Late submission of bids will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) JOSEFINA D. MANDAPAT
Officer-in-Charge

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Project Supervisor

(PDI – June 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **STORAGE UPGRADE.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from May 27 to June 9, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php **3,750.00.**

PhilHealth had provided funds for this project for which this invitation is issued. The approved budget for this contract is **Php 7,500,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 10, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on June 28, 2005 on or before 12:00 noon at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at Rm. 1804. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1107 (OSBAC). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **the non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount;

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 75,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 112,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 187,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 7,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements and of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(May 27 & June 3, 2005)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2005-014

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	June 22, 2005 2:00 P.M. Sinulog Room	Mechanical Parts for PB 106 "Daihatsu"	PB050622-MMVB2962	2,709,700.00
II		Fuel, ADO for SPUG Visayas	PB050622-MMVB2963	1,620,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I – III	June 8, 2005	2:00 P.M.	Sinulog Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 924-5357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 1,000.00 for Schedule I and PHP 500.00 for Schedule II starting on May 30, 2005 from 8:00 to 12:00 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent 2.5%, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – May 27 & June 3, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BOI Certificate of Registration No. VII 90-002 issued on 18 June 1990 for expansion & modernization of its existing inter-island shipping operation under the name of GEORGE AND PETER LINES, INC. was lost.

(PDI – June 3, 2005)

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MANUFACTURING CORP.
Block C #9 K, Porong Street, Punturin
Valenzuela City 1447

One (1) ACCOUNTING STAFF

- M/F at least 25-30 years old, BS Accountancy, board passer preferred
- Minimum two years experience in Accounts Management and Financial Analysis
- Proficient in English oral and written communication
- Computer literate a must

One (1) ACCOUNTING OFFICER:

- M/F graduate of BS Accountancy, 30 years and above, CPA board passer
- At least 5 years managerial experience in the field of accounting (Accounts Management and Financial Analysis)
- Well versed in government accounting and government procurement procedure
- Strong leadership and highly analytical
- Effective in English oral and written communication, Cantonese speaking an advantage

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ST. MARY'S Academy in Pursuit of Excellence! The maintenance personnel of SMA-Guagua, Pampanga, SMA-Caloocan City, SMA-Hagonoy, Bulacan, SMA-Yakal, Sta. Cruz, SMA-Sta. Ana, Manila, SMA-Sto. Niño, Meycuauan, Bulacan during their Graduation Ceremonies of their Training and Workshop called "Housekeeping Management and the Power of Service Excellence Training and Workshop" (May 9-10, 2005). Flank by the graduates in front is Mr. Rafael S. Chico, president of Interlink Manpower Development and General Services, Inc. who serves as the trainor of the said training program.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. (02) 895-8322
Tel. Nos. (02) 897-6682
(02) 890-1322

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **CHAMPION SIDECARS & TRIKES, Inc.** with address at Shemberg Marketing Compound, J.P. Rizal St., Basak, Mandaue City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Export Producer of Trike Kit Bodies and Parts at a capacity of 1,728 Kits Per Year and with proposed plant site at (same as in above address) has been officially accepted on 26 May 2005 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 26th day of May 2005.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
OIC-Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – June 3, 2005)

Call Center Conference
& Expo 2005

CCAP'S CALL CENTER CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2005 CONTRACT SIGNING

The Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) and events organizer/ producer DL Media Focus International Inc. (DLMFII) signed a joint venture agreement to organize the official and biggest Call Center Conference and Expo 2005, to be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Signing are (seated from left) CCAP Board of Director Jojo Uligan, DLMFII Managing Director Darryl Duarte, and CCAP Board of Directors Benedict Hernandez and Victor Endaya. Looking on are (from left) DLMFII Project Director Heinz Bulos, DLMFII VP for Operations Armie Duarte, CCAP Board of Directors Raffy David and Renato Yap.

Be it known that the following shareholders and officers of Andrews Manpower Consulting, Inc. are in the process of applying for a Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) license to operate a land based international recruitment company: Louie Victor G. Lopez, Annalina L. Saulong, Arnaldo M. Saulong, Alaida M. Saulong, and Rebecca P. Lopez.

This advertisement is being published as part of the requirements by the POEA for issuance of a POEA license

ANDREWS MANPOWER CONSULTING, INC.
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Makati City, Philippines

(PDI–June 3, 2005)

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P 16.00
NFA RICE

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo displays a price tag bearing the price of regular milled NFA rice in this rice outlet in Taboan Market in Cebu. The President inspected rice outlets in Cebu during her recent trip in the city. With the President are agriculture secretary Arthur C. Yap, Cebu City mayor Thomas Osmeña (in black shirt), and deputy house speaker Raul Del Mar (in striped shirt). Also present during the President's market inspection is NFA regional director Flo Pascual.

Opportunity knocks but once.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST DEALER'S CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

Confirmation Certificate #45088233

Registered Owner Iluminada V. Gomez

(PDI–June 3, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

PAZ ROCHA SUAREZ

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 31, 2005

Her bereaved sister and brothers, sister **Paz, ICM, Pablo** (†) and **Gregorio**; sisters-in-law, **Consuelo** and **Filomena**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be at the Santuario de Santo Cristo, 106 F. Blumentritt Street, San Juan, Metro Manila on Saturday, June 4, 2005 after the Holy Mass at eight o'clock in the morning.

Dr. JUANITO B. CACAPIT

Peacefully joined his Creator
*and loving wife **Fely Albino – Cacapit***
at 7:30pm on May 31, 2005 at the age of 76

His loving children **Juanito Jr., Jose Jimmy, Jorge, Josephine, Jacqueline, Jocelyn, Julius, Jonathan** and **Jesus**, grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest and happiness.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Chapel K at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at 10:00am at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal.

LIONEL "NEL" DE TORO PENGSON

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 2, 2005.

His family, **Cristina, Miguel, Tricie, Robert**, and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Saturday, June 04, 2005
Mt. Carmel Church, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Come to Me,
all you who
are weary
and burdened,
and I will
give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

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FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• **MAKATI**

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30;
Fax No. 843-9223

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

• **MALABON**

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

• **MANDALUYONG**

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• **MANILA**

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447

• **MARIKINA**

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

• **PARAÑAQUE**

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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts.,
Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

• **PASAY**

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438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204

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Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1601; 845-4836

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San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
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FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735

• **QUEZON CITY**

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12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 716-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87

• **TAGUIG-PATEROS**

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

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Tels. (052) 820-0188; 0917-2074152

• **BACOLOD**

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132

• **BAGUIO**

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337;
(074) 442-3117

• **BATAAN**

SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766

• **BULACAN**

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281;
678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

• **CAVITE**

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417;
(046) 571-1978

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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

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Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

• **ILOCOS**

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#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145

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2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142;
Fax (049) 531-4989

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Tels. 649-5949; 942-4460

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Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737

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Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

CLASSIFIEDS

National Irrigation Administration
Region 13, Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Irrigation Administration (NIA)**, hereby invites Contractors who have both a PCAB License with Registration particulars of at least "Medium A" and duly Licensed Fabricator with field of specialization on the Fabrication and Installation of Steel Gates to secure Eligibility Forms for the proposed Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of **4-units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate for Mat-i, Ambacon, Pinanaan Communal Irrigation Project (MAP CIP)** located at **Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte**.

Name of Contract	Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of 4 Units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate
Location	Las Nieves, Agusal del Norte
Description	Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of 4 Units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate
Approved Budget for the Contract	P7,481,000.00
Contract Duration	120 Calendar Days

The list of materials required for Fabrication and Installation and the corresponding specifications are provided for in the Bidding Documents.

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License as contractor/fabricator applicable to the contract, who have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated Bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Award of Contract and Standard Forms shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of letters of intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 15, 2005 – July 6, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 15, 2005 – July 6, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	July 26, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Venue : NIA, Region XIII, Bancasi Butuan City
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 8, 2005 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Venue : NIA, Region XIII, Bancasi Butuan City

For detailed information, please call Marili M. Montes at (085) 342-3000 or (085) 226-4954, E-mail: niacarago@skyinet.net.

The BAC will issue to the prospective bidders of the Eligibility Forms at the Regional Office of the National Irrigation Administration, Bancasi, Butuan City, upon submission of their LOI, and upon a non-refundable payment to the cashier of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. The BAC will issue the results of the Eligibility Check.

The BAC will issue the Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Thousand Pesos** (P5,000.00) to the National Irrigation Administration.

The **National Irrigation Administration** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 3 & 10, 2005)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Nueva Vizcaya
MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya as implementing partner of the DLR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and bid for the following projects.
   1. **Rehabilitation & Improvement of Aurora CIS**

Approved Budget Cost	P 5,796,750.72
Estimated Duration	180 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Construction/installation of canal lining, canal structures, protection works and portland cement concrete pavement.

Minimum Required Equipment

1 unit	Backhoe with 0.5 cu.m. bucket capacity
2 units	Dumptruck
1 unit	Payloader
3 units	1 Bagger Concrete Mixer
3 units	Plate Compactor
3 units	Water Pump (diesel) 4" dia.

   2. **Rehabilitation & Improvement of Bantian-Maddiangat CIS Project**

Approved Budget Cost	P 4,537,777.78
Estimated Duration	163 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Construction/installation of canal lining, canal structures, diversion works and protection works.

Minimum Required Equipment

1 unit	Bulldozer (200 hp)
1 unit	Backhoe with 0.5 cu.m. bucket capacity
2 units	Dumptruck
1 unit	Payloader
1 unit	Compressor 160 CFM
1 unit	Service Vehicle
2 units	1 Bagger Concrete Mixer
2 units	Plate Compactor
2 units	Water Pump (diesel) 4" dia.

3. Schedule of Bidding Activities

• Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements	June 16, 2005
• Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 13, 2005 to July 12, 2005
• Pre-Bid Conference	July 12, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
• Submission and Opening of Bids	July 25, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.

4. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat Eligibility requirements, in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat c/o Engr. Dominador A. Gocobe of the Municipal Engineering Office.
5. Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A.
6. Bidding documents will be issued to eligible bidders by the BAC Secretariat at Municipal Treasurer's Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 per set.
7. The Local Government Unit of Quezon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ENGR. OLIDAN S. OJADAS
BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 3 & 10, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 05-076

RE Application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

ACG JOY EXPRESS LINER,
Applicant.
x- -x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its route, under the following sailing frequency, schedule of trips and rates:

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV "ACG JOY 3"	Passenger.Cargo

Route/s to be served

Masbate City – Dalahican, Lucena City and vice versa

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Masbate City	Monday	7:00 PM	Dalahican, Lucena City	Tuesday	7:00 AM
Dalahican, Lucena City	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Masbate City	Wednesday	7:00 AM
Masbate City	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Dalahican, Lucena City	Thursday	7:00 AM
Dalahican, Lucena City	Thursday	7:00 PM	Masbate City	Friday	7:00 AM
Masbate City	Friday	9:30 AM	Dalahican, Lucena City	Friday	9:30 PM
Dalahican, Lucena City	Friday	11:00 PM	Masbate City	Saturday	11:00 AM
Masbate City	Saturday	7:00 PM	Dalahican, Lucena City	Sunday	7:00 AM
Dalahican, Lucena City	Sunday	7:00 PM	Masbate City	Monday	7:00 AM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Masbate City	Dalahican, Lucena City	3rd Class (Economy)	P 550.00
		2nd Class (Tourist)	P 650.00

RO-RO/ROLLING

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Lane Meter	Rate/Unit
From	To			
Masbate City	Dalahican, Lucena City	Motorcycle		P 2,750.00
		Car		4,400.00
		Pick-up		4,400.00
		FX		4,400.00
		Van		4,400.00
		Adventure		4,400.00
		Revo		4,400.00
		Cross Wind		4,400.00
		Trooper		4,400.00
		Pajero		4,400.00
		Jeep		4,400.00
		C-Van 4 wheels		6,600.00
		C-Van 6 wheels		7,700.00
		Truck 6 wheels		13,200.00
		Truck 8 wheels		13,200.00
		Truck 10 wheels		15,400.00
		Elf 4 wheels		6,600.00
		Elf 6 wheels		7,700.00
		Dump truck		14,300.00

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 10 June 2005, Friday at 2:30 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 2nd day of June 2005, Legazpi City Philippines

By AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD
(Sgd.) LUCITA T. MADARANG
Regional Director

(PDI–June 3, 2005)

Efficient supply chain emerges as key to aggie competitiveness

AN EFFICIENT supply chain is emerging as key to the competitiveness of the country's food and agri-business industry.

And it means quality, productivity, and cost-efficiency in every stage of production and processing along the entire supply chain, wherein the output of one enterprise is the input of another, according to the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD), a non-government organization serving the agriculture and food industry.

FRLD president Antonio V. Roces said attaining that level of efficiency would require strong and seamless linkages among all members of the supply chain to make them price-competitive against the currently cheaper imports and take advantage of business opportunities from the increased demand arising from the projected economic turnaround and rapid population growth.

"The increase in demand is especially expected for food, particularly for meat and meat preparations, in the range of 6.7 to 7.1 percent. Consequently, there will be a corresponding surge in demand for feed grains, primarily corn," Roces said.

The country's second major grain crop-corn-posted a huge 17.28-percent output growth last year. It is expected to grow by 9 percent this year.

While the price of corn can be affected by the costs of such various inputs as seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, milling, trucking, and shipping, it can also influence those of livestock feeds, meat and poultry, bakery products, and other food items using corn or corn starch.

"As such, there is a glaring need to develop synergy in the entire supply chain in order to attain competitiveness in terms of volume, quality and price," Roces explained, citing FRLD's move to address the issue by gathering the food and agri-business industry in one big international event dubbed Agrilink and Foodlink 2005.

The country's biggest and most prestigious annual international tradeshow on agribusiness and food, Agrilink and Foodlink will have "Efficient Supply Chain: Key to Competitiveness" as its theme for this year.

The twin events, which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 6 to 8, are designed for the pursuit of competitiveness by making available all the. products, services, technologies and systems for that purpose, while serving as a venue for developing the required level of linkages among all members of the supply chain.

At the same time, Agrilink and Foodlink are geared to generate business opportunities, retail sales, booked orders, marketing tie-ups, joint ventures, and other lucrative transactions between the exhibitors and the hordes of visitors and trade buyers.

Inquiries and/or reservations can be made with FRLD at 838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@pldtdsl.net.

Specifically, Agrilink 2005 will bring together all the sectors of agribusiness, including agricultural chemicals, animal breeding, animal health and nutrition, aquaculture, equipment and machinery, feed ingredients and processing, fertilizers, financial institutions, fruits and vegetables, horticulture, irrigation systems, seafoods, seeds, and wastewater management, among many others.

On the other hand, Foodlink 2005 will comprise beverages, consultancy, cooling and storage facilities, dairy, fishery products, food ingredients and additives, food packaging materials, food processing and packaging, meat products, post-harvest facilities, process automation, processed food, and storage and logistics, among others.

Foodlink is now on its 6th year, and Agrilink on its 12th. Both events also include technology seminars, product demos, business matching, and interaction among industry stakeholders.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY

The Bangladesh Embassy held its 34th anniversary of independence and national day at the Dusit Hotel Ballroom, Makati City, March 28. Shown at the celebration were, from left, His Excellency Ambassador of Romania, Radu Homescu PhD, Fortune Aleta Ledesma, Honorary Consul of Monaco to the Philippines, Evie Costa, Consul a.h. of the Republic of Togo, Angeles 'Toto' Santocildes, His Excellency Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, M. Munir-Uz-Zaman, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Evangeline L. Pascual and Ambassador Raul Ilustre Goco, Former Sol-Gen, RP envoy to Canada, and Juris't, UN International Law Commission. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, media and friends of the embassy.

Three Gs: Defense against stress, high blood pressure

Moreishi
HERBAL
PLUS
30 Capsules
700mg

MOREISHI has come up with another winning synergistic combination of herbs to help combat stress as well as regulate high blood pressure and the other factors that contribute to it. Moreishi G-Defense contains three superb natural ingredients.

Gotu Kola is known for its ability to increase energy, improve memory, and ease anxiety and stress and also stimulate the central nervous system and rebuild energy reserves that will help alleviate high blood pressure. Ginger is known for being a strong circulatory stimulant that helps to relax blood vessels, as well as for its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and pain-relieving properties. Garlic, according to Dr. James Balch, in his book 'The Super Anti-Oxidants,' acts as a super antioxidant, lowers blood pressure, boosts the immune system, balances blood sugar, prevents heart disease, assists in fat metabolism, and aids in cancer prevention.

Moreishi products are distributed by the Empower Group and registered with the Bureau of Food and Drug. For more information about Empower membership and its range of products, call 534-6843 or 532-8059.

Bad Boy wheels

ENHANCE and improve your ride's looks and performance with Wheel Gallery's newest line of aftermarket wheels. Dubbed as Concept One's "Bad Boy" Series, the black finish is becoming more popular in both the US and European markets.

"It seems to be the fashion now, black or bronze finish with chrome lips. This is the next generation of blings," says Sammy Liuson, the man who put Filipinos on size 22s and 24s rims.

As a company known for setting the trend in the local tuning industry, Wheel Gallery has the latest and meanest looking set of aftermarket wheels designed to maximize the sex appeal of your sedan, AUV or SUV.

Shown is the next big thing to hit the local market after the "Bling-Bling" phenomena, the "Bad Boy" Series in black and bronze finish. Concept One's "Bad Boy" Series comes in 15 to 24-inch sizes and is licensed by various international standard organizations like the Japan Wheel License (JWL), Vehicle Inspection Association (VIA), Specialty Equipment Manufacturer's Association (Sema), ISO9000, QS9000 and TUV. For inquiries, log on to www.conceptonewheels.com or visit Kartek Center, 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan, or call 724-7176/724-2739/726-0965.

New batch of SM scholars honored

SM FOUNDATION recently honored its latest batch of graduates of its College Scholarship Program in a simple but heartwarming ceremony held recently at the Megatrade Hall at the SM Megamall.

No less than SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr and his wife Felicidad graced the occasion to congratulate the 92 graduates from Metro Manila and the provinces. Also present were SM president Tessie Sy-Coson, SM Investments executive vice president Jose Sio and SM Foundation executive directors Debbie Sy, Linda Atayde, and Connie Angeles.

BATCH 2005 president Benjamin Osias Jr.

SM INVESTMENT executive vice president Jose Sio, during his closing remarks.

715 scholar graduates

To date, SM Foundation's Scholarship Program has total of 715 scholar graduates. This is the 9th batch, with quite a harvest of honor grads: one magna cum laude, 17 cum laude; and one dean's awardee recipient.

Dolores Gigante, who graduated magna cum laude from the New Era University, says that the scholarship program allowed her to finish her course despite her family's financial difficulties. She recalls that when she saw "executives coming in and out of SM, I told myself I wanted to be like them. I wanted to achieve what they have." This dream is not so far fetched now that she has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.

Dolores says, "SM Foundation not only provided me with financial assistance for my studies, but gave me the strength and inspiration to go on despite the challenges and hardships in my studies. I believe that whatever you are, whenever you may be after this day, one should not forget to look back."

Other honor grads were equally expressive of their gratitude. Omega Fe Importante, who graduated cum laude from BS in Accounting degree from Central Philippine University in Iloilo, says her father's work as a Methodist Pastor involved frequently traveling and relying on the community for financial support.

Serve like Henry

"SM Foundation served as my motivation to dream and concentrate on my studies," she shared with the audience. "I want to be a corporate lawyer and serve people like Henry Sy. Through Henry Sy, I see hope for all of us."

> The 9th batch has 1 magna cum laude, 17 cum laudes; and 1 dean's awardee recipient

SM FOUNDER and chair receives a stuffed toy as a token of appreciation from the Batch 2005 scholars.

Batch 2005 president Benjamin Osias Jr says that he never doubted that he would finish college because "there is SM and I believe in it." While parents were initially skeptical about my obtaining a college degree, they now say they are lucky there is SM. "I've learned a lot from SM Foundation," says this new BS in Electronics Communication Engineering graduate from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. "Being president of this batch has been quite an experience."

'One word not enough'

Parents were equally thankful. "One word is not enough to thank Henry Sy because my dream for my daughter to finish college has become a reality," says Antonio Ordaniel Sr, whose daughter Angelic graduated with the batch.

A CERTIFICATE of appreciation and a wrist watch from SM Foundation is awarded to Ana Jane Chua, a cum laude graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology from SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr and Felicidad Sy.

CUM LAUDE Eduardo Divina from Philippine Normal College is awarded a certificate of appreciation and a wristwatch from SM Foundation.

BATCH 2005 scholars serenade Henry Sy Sr with their own rendition of 'What A Journey It Has Been.'

HENRY Sy Sr and Felicidad Sy with Philippine Normal University graduates.

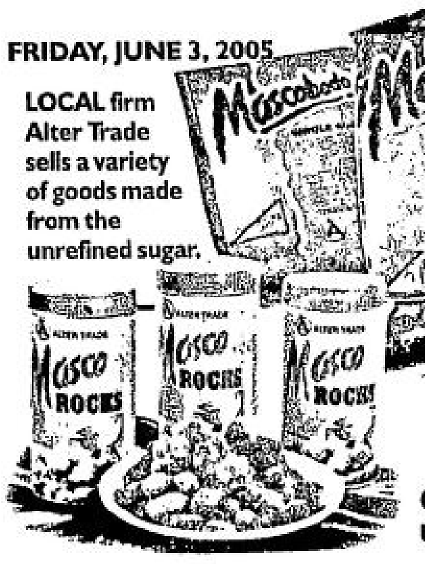
Many of this year's cum laude grads came from the Philippine Normal University: Ma. Luisa Aldana, April Joy Andres, Leah Monica Bautista, Irene Cabrales, Arlina Ceniza, Eduardo Divina, Myra Encinas, Angelic Ordaniel, Jessevel Rico, Leizl Talaman, and Doris Zaguirre.

Others include Ana Jane Chua of the Mapua Institute of Technology, Omega Fe Importante of the Central Philippine University, Marie Krishna Lagula of Cavite State University, Marbet Ondot of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, and Glenn Verano of the University of Southwestern Philippines in Davao. Vanessa Baldoza of the Mapua Institute of Technology was a Dean's Awardee.

As a souvenir, the graduates were each given wrist watches engraved with their names and a certificate of appreciation.

SM Foundation's College Scholarship Program is one the many ways it reaches out to the less fortunate. The program has 400 scholars at any given time.

BUSINESS Friday
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**



LOCAL firm Alter Trade sells a variety of goods made from the unrefined sugar.

That Swiss choco may be sweetened by muscovado

FARMERS harvest cane for processing.

By Christine A. Gaylican

DID you know that the fine Swiss chocolate brand Mascao is sweetened by Philippine muscovado?

Filipino firm Alter Trade Manufacturing Corp. has been exporting the organic muscovado to chocolate manufacturers in Switzerland for the past 17 years and has also been supplying other food manufacturers in Europe and Asia.

Muscovado is unrefined sugar that is of a golden brown color. The name comes from the Spanish word *mascabado* which means unrefined sugar.

The country's largest exporter of the organically grown muscovado based in Bago City, Negros Occidental, has been growing in the recent years and sees the market potential for the product to be stronger than before.

The Swiss makers of the world famous Mascao chocolates, in particular, have increased orders from the Filipino manufacturer over the years, says Alter Trade Corp.'s marketing and sales manager Elizabeth C. Mondejar in an interview.

"The Swiss manufacturers based in Orpund, Switzerland, used to acquire only one to three containers before now they are ordering 16 containers for this year," shares Mondejar.

Alter Trade has exported 580 metric tons of muscovado in 2004 to its clients in Europe and other Asian countries including Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong, Mondejar cites.

Alter Trade will expand its milling operations this year to meet the growing world demand for the chemical free sweetener.

Acquiring a P50 million loan from the OikoCredit-Netherlands, Alter Trade will be able to double its production and export capacity to 1,600 tons a year from the existing 500 tons, notes Mondejar.

With the upgrading of its facilities based in Negros Occidental, Alter Trade will be churning out 60 tons of sugar per day compared with the current 30 tons a day capacity.

"This would allow us to increase our exports to Europe and other Asian markets of the premium muscovado, which is priced ranging from $550 to $750 per metric ton," Mondejar says at the sidelines of the first Philippine Muscovado Summit at the Asian Institute of Management held last week.

During the forum, Mondejar shares that the challenge for exporters is meeting the food safety and quality requirement standards of importing countries.

She cites that in order to export to Japan, the company had to meet the National Organic Program stated in Japan's Agricultural Standards. To reach the European markets, the company acquired and passed the standards set by private certifier Naturland,

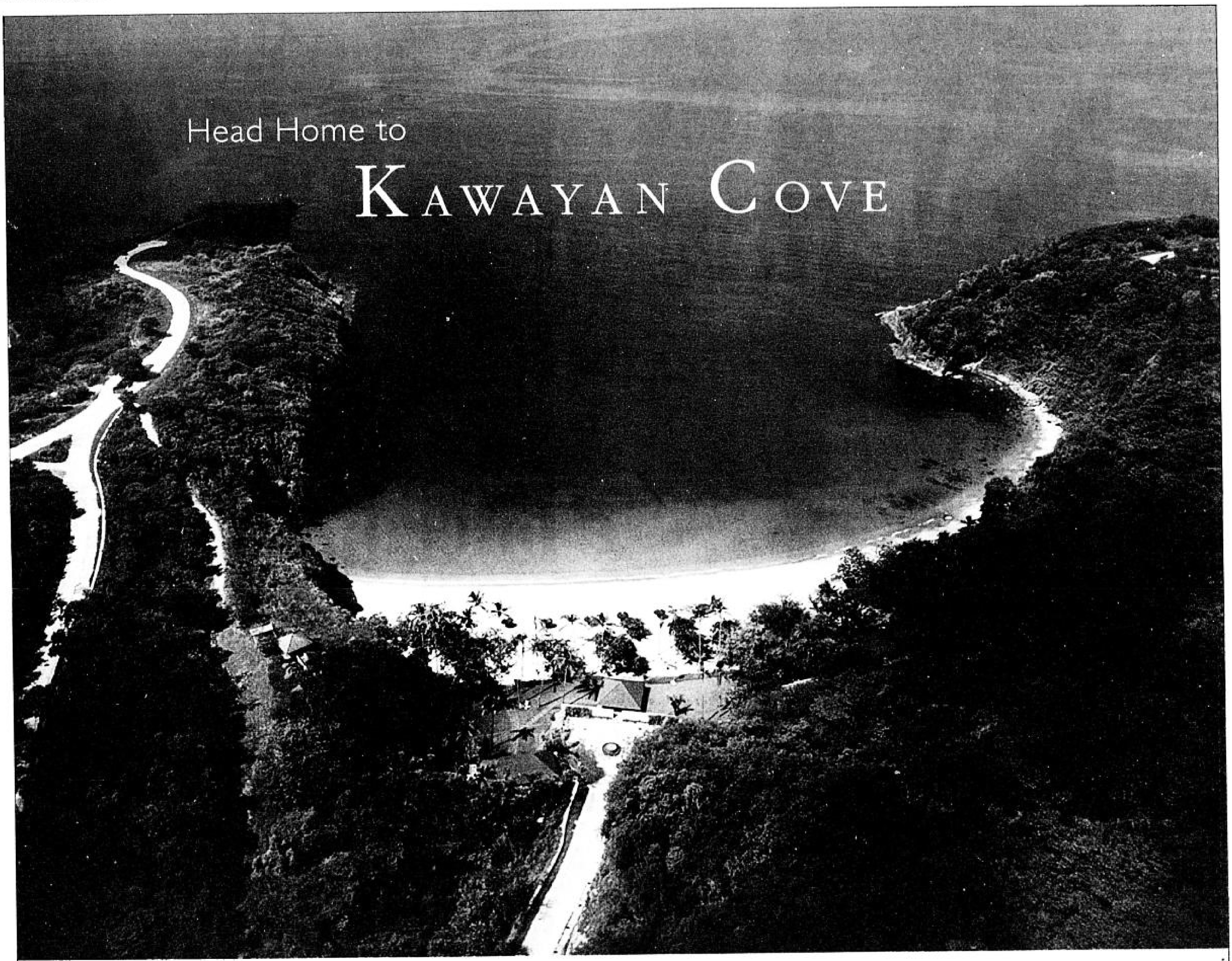
BioSuisse is compliant with the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (Haccp). It is also certified by the N ational Organic

Program (NOP) of United State Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"It is very tedious to meet the international specifications but it can be done," she says.

She notes there is also a market for the organic muscovado in the domestic market such as super

THAT SWISS/ B2-3



Actual shot of Bamboo Beach, Nasugbu, Batangas

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about it, but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands.

Kawayan Cove is the exclusive residential enclave on the verdant slopes that surround the fabled beach.

For generations, only the owners have had homes at this legendary locale. Now you can be one of the few who head home to Kawayan Cove.

KAWAYAN COVE
Bamboo Beach Nasugbu, Batangas

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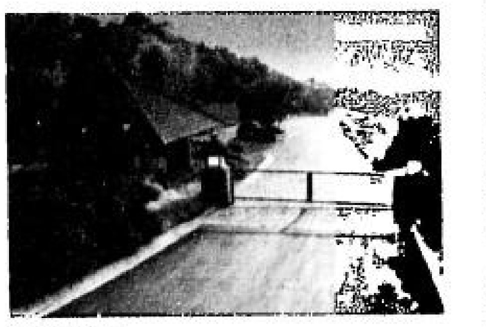
KAWAYAN COVE

Undoubtedly the most exclusive and private seaside residential community in Nasugbu, Batangas.



Entrance Gate

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about this fabled locale but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands. A spectacular 650 meter crescent on the western coast of the Batangas shoreline, it is protected from the prying eyes of the outside world by twin headlands.

Surrounding this secluded retreat is a 61-hectare private enclave known as Kawayan Cove. It is composed of a limited number of prime residential lots, ranging from 500 to 2,000 square meters, situated on dramatic slopes between shore and summit. The highest elevation is 127 meters above sea level, providing homeowners with a breathtaking view of the South China Sea. For those who are environment-conscious, the good news is that the cove is a sanctuary for natural vegetation and existing fauna.

Luxuriate in the comfort of modern seaside living

Kawayan Cove artfully blends the natural and the man-made. All the homes in this residential seaside community are envisioned to merge subtly with the lush, tropical environment. World-class facilities have been designed to complement a sacred approach to nature. Land, sea and cultural heritage are safeguarded to enrich the community, thus making Kawayan Cove truly priceless. A weekend getaway, a summer haven and a luxurious, secluded second home, Kawayan Cove makes living an ideal idyll.

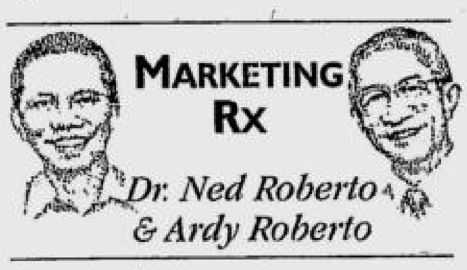
Bamboo Beach Club Pavilion

Since development began in 2002, progress has been steady. So far, 75% of road networks and subterranean cabled utilities have been completed. The first several residents have begun construction on their future abodes. Homeowner facilities like the Meditation Point, the Beach Pavilion, the Welcome Pavilion and the Beach Houses have all been completed. Coming soon is the inauguration of the Sports and Recreation Area, where residents can enjoy the kiddie pool, the children's playground, picnic grove, barbecue area, tennis court and basketball court. Anticipation is riding high on the availability of more view lots in Phase 3.

Share the treasure

For kindred spirits who harbor the same appreciation for nature and fine living, Kawayan Cove is a place to see, breathe, feel. It is not just a piece of paradise but a treasure to share with loved ones and bequeath to the next generation.

Don't always accept ad agency's line that TV is best advertising medium



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

HERE was last week's question: I'm a new brand manager for a packaged snack food item of a fairly large local company. I'm confused about advertising media. The media director from one ad agency bidding for my brand said that if I want to reach and get the attention of my target consumers (who are children and teens), I must be on TV.

But the media director of another ad agency said in his agency's pitch that TV advertising for my brand would practically be a waste because, less and less children and teens are watching TV and when they do, they zap commercials. In place of TV, she recommended posters and merchandising materials in store outlets and school canteens. So what's the real score? What media can really get and hold my target consumers' attention?

Here's the second and concluding part of our answer (go to www.Inq7.net to read the first part,):

The traditional model is about the consumer media habits and practices. In researching this model, market survey agencies gather data on the who-which-when-and-how-much of consumer TV viewing, radio listening, and print media reading. Out of the data, statistics on, for example, a TV program's audience size and composition, and daily changes in these statistics are computed. For TV, ACNielsen and AGB have warehoused the data and provided them (for a fee of course) to the TV networks and ad agencies. In turn, ad agencies have developed with the technical help of Nielsen or AGB, their own data mining software for TV media planning, placement and buying.

Media planners-hostages to TV?

The convenience of this media planning tool and its "scientific-like" aura has been a (if not the) major entry barrier for any "new" media trying to challenge the primacy (some say, "tyranny") of TV in the ad media marketplace. For media planning, all that the media planner has to do to obtain the appropriate TV program placement mix is to input into the computer keyboard the target audience demographics, reach, frequency and budget. The media planning software then processes these parameters. Then it neatly displays in the computer monitor the recommended suitable TV program placement mix. No other media has this planning tool to assist your media planner. When you're pushing for consideration of some of the "new" media, you will now appreciate why your number one source of resistance is your ad agency's media planner.

Of course not all media people are like that. But the exceptions are very few. One of them is Malu Vasallo, now head of media at McCann Erickson Phils. Inc. Malu stands above her media peers in at least three aspects: she is creative about the use of traditional media; she's entrepreneurial when she recommends "new media" usage; and she's genuinely innovative in the way she combines traditional and new media as well as in the use of research in her media strategy and planning decisions.

The model's other critical downside is its assumption. It makes the unwarranted assumption that TV, radio and print remains and will continue to remain as the leading communication media for getting and holding the consumers' attention. It is this highly questionable assumption that triggered the search for an alternative and more realistic consumer media behavior model.

New models

The "new" emerging model places the consumer media habits and practices in a larger context. It's a model known in some quarters as the "consumer affinity behavior." Nestlé Philippines' marketing group has been championing this model for a couple of years now.

The model looks at the consumer's changing and adapting behavior toward the allocation of her waking hours during the day or over an extended period. Some three or four years back, the senior MRx-er called this study of consumer time allocating behavior as "share of waking hours" study. In a small base and qualitative pretest of the study, already a few engaging "insights" have been obtained. (Incidentally, the study has stayed at the pretest stage. Enough number of advertisers has yet to be persuaded to subscribe to this syndicated study.)

Look at video games

For example, it is true that on a daily basis, children and teens are spending less and less time watching TV. What is winning more and more of their day-to-day hours are video games (online and CD) and the web. Visiting retail stores and even school canteens is not a daily time engager for this media audience segment. When they do make those visits, it does not look like it takes up the teens' and children's time for a significantly longer duration than TV watching.

The quality of time allocation also differs. The intensity and "affinity" character of the attention given to video games and the web is far above those given to TV and other time engagers. The notable exception seems to be texting.

There is another interesting and powerful audience attention getting and holding quality in video games and the web. Children and teens playing and visiting them talked about them afterwards. It's the kind of talk that we've seen and did after watching a good movie. In other words, getting into video games and the web trigger "buzz" or word-of-mouth communication. It's a multiplier to what was seen, read and acted upon in the video games and the web. In a previous column we've discussed this multiplier role and power of a buzz media.

If the quantification of these qualitative findings were to confirm and validate them, then the answer to your question logically follows. You should consider video games and the web as well as SMS as your primary "affinity" media in getting and holding children's and teens' attention. It's not TV nor store and canteen posters and merchandising materials.

To summarize, here are our MRx's to you and to those like you who are struggling with this tower of media Babel:

- Diagnose both the "efficiency" and the "effectiveness" sides of your media choice problem. So ask the efficiency question: "Are you doing your media task right?" Ask as well the effectiveness question: "Are you doing the right media task?"
- To answer the efficiency question, gather cost-effectiveness data on your alternative media choices. Make sure these data pertain to your target consumer audience and not the media's total audience. Also get the statistics for the alternative media being considered. Rough approximations are better than none. Reject the ad agency argument that it's only TV that has the needed statistics. It's the ad agency's servicing responsibility to present those statistics including the rough approximations. To refuse or evade doing so is an irresponsible position.
- To answer the effectiveness question, identify your target consumers' "affinity" media. That's the media that does two things. First, it takes up the most time or the largest amount of attention on the part of your target consumers. Second (and more importantly), it engages your target consumers with intensity, and holds for them a meaningful conversation value as to provoke them to do post word-of-mouth and buzz communication.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

COFFEE machines are the same. The key to a good brew depends on the coffee beans.

So you want to open a coffee house?

A RECENT addition to pop culture, coffee shops have gone beyond being simple beverage outlets. In fact, the thriving coffee house business has given a lot of people—young and old alike—entrepreneurial inspiration. Despite the hard times, coffee nooks today remain one of the most lucrative businesses in the Philippines.

"We've gotten rid of the notion that young people shouldn't drink coffee. With the arrival of the big multinational coffee shops, we're starting to be educated about coffee. The local industry is still growing," says Rolando Versoza, general manager of Technolux Equipment & Supplies Corp., distributor of a complete line of food service and laundry equipment with a clientele of over 300 establishments.

Technolux supplies brewing and grinding machines and all the accessories a coffee house can possibly need, and enjoys a 50 percent market share in coffee machines. It is also a major sponsor and exhibitor at the 3rd Coffee, Tea & Specialty Beverage Trade Show, the country's only trade show that gathers all the big names and upcoming players in the business of coffee, tea, specialty beverages, brewing equipment, and every other product and supply in between.

The company has found itself busy these days, advising budding entrepreneurs about everything they need to know to open a coffee shop. Here, Versoza gives the lowdown on the things a budding entrepreneur needs to know when getting into the coffee house business.

Back To basics

- Passion. "The first and most important thing you need is passion for coffee. Some people take this for granted, thinking they can be successful just because everyone else in the business is. But ask yourself: Do you drink coffee? If you don't even know the difference between good coffee and bad coffee, it won't work for you," Versoza asserts.
- Identity. The next step, he says, is to decide on your identity—meaning, what kind of coffee drink you are going to serve: instant, drip-brewed, or espresso-based.
- Equipment. Then you can decide on the equipment you need and where to get it.

"For espresso-based drinks, you can use an automatic or semi-automatic espresso machine. Professional baristi use the semi-automatic machine for the art of performing and making coffee drinks," Versoza explains.

The thing to remember, he says, is that all coffee machines are the same no matter what the brand.

"The quality of coffee drinks depends on the coffee beans, not on the machine. So what you should look for is not a machine per se, but a reputable supplier of good equipment and after-sales services," Versoza explains.

- After sales service. Versoza reveals that in these hard times, people go out of their way to acquire equipment and services on a bargain. But is it truly a bargain? He points out that the real bargain is in the after-sales service the dealer is able to provide. In the event of a machine breakdown, efficient service could spell the difference between losing business and getting back on track immediately.

"The coffee machine needs periodic servicing. What happens if it breaks down or its parts need replacing? If your dealer can't provide immediate service, there goes your day's earnings. With the kind of competition in the market, you can't afford to lose business even for one day."

He advises entrepreneurs to shop around and compare prices.

"Some people may go for the least pricey offer. But if you're offered an incredibly low price, ask yourself what you're giving up in return. Our company's equipment is priced a bit higher than most because we put premium on after-sales service."

At Technolux, a full range of after-sales services come with the machine. Technolux has service providers all over the country, ensuring immediate servicing of equipment.

In addition, it provides clients with free consultancy. When clients come to purchase coffee-making equipment, they can visit the Technolux test kitchen which contains a working coffee shop demo complete with everything - from countertops, display shelves, even menu boards, murals and lamps one normally finds at a high-end coffee house. Clients can then discuss everything from the coffee house's interior design to the menu with the Technolux team. An in-house specialist trains baristi for free.

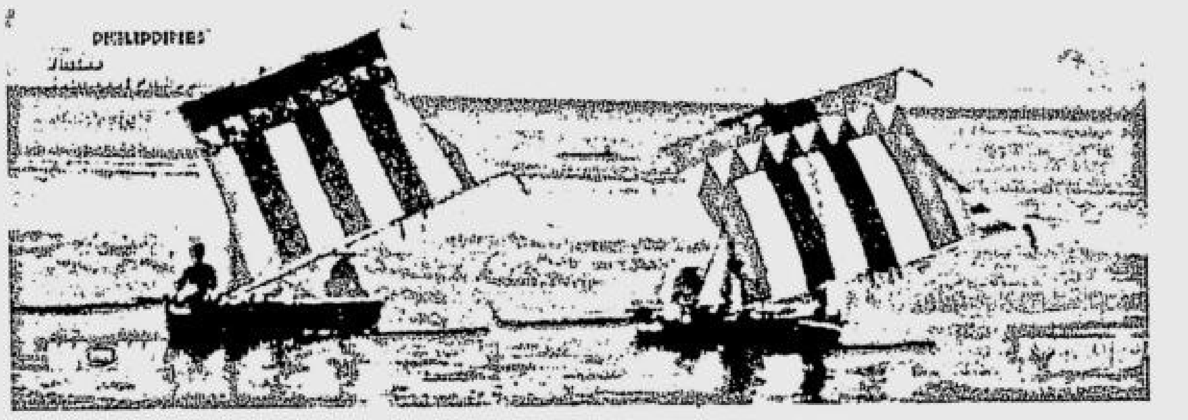
"We can help clients start their business. We're working on helping clients come up with a start-up budget. For the espresso machine and grinder, expect to pay half a million pesos. The cost of the coffee house itself will depend on your target market and how much you're willing to spend. For everything we don't distribute—like tables and chairs, floor tiles, lights—we refer clients to reputable suppliers that we have worked with."

At the upcoming Coffee, Tea & Specialty Beverage Trade Show, Technolux will exhibit its full range of coffee house equipment. It will put up a coffee bar and slush bar where visitors can avail of a hot cup of coffee or a refreshing slushie right at the exhibit hall.

Technolux will also conduct a series of free seminars during the trade show: a coffee concept seminar for those who want to put up a coffee shop; a Slush Island seminar for those who want to get in the business of slushies, smoothies and shakes; and a soft-serve ice cream demo to give entrepreneurs ideas on how to explore the ice cream business.

The 3rd Coffee, Tea & Specialty Beverage Trade Show is slated on July 7-9 at the Megatrade Hall 1, 5th floor, SM Megamall Building B. It is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc. and sponsored by Technolux Equipment & Supplies Corp. and Torani Syrups & Sauces.

For details, call 896-0682 or 896-0661, or email coffeeshow@primetradeasia.com.



Selling RP via a microphone

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

MOST Filipinos spend hours singing away their blues, especially Overseas Filipino Workers who are among the most avid fans of the ubiquitous Magic Sing microphone.

In-A-Jiffy, the local distributor of the Magic Sing microphones from Korea, then thought that since Filipinos spend so much time looking at the video while singing songs, they might as well watch something worthwhile.

That something worthwhile for In-A-Jiffy are scenes from top tourist destinations, such as the Banaue Rice Terraces, the fine white beach of Boracay, the Spanish-era houses of Vigan, and the dive sites of Palawan.

Thus began the "Sing Through the Philippines" marketing campaign, a product of the partnership between In-A-Jiffy and the Department of Tourism.

The cooperation was designed to put strengths together and build on the largely untapped tourism potential of the Philippines.

"Instead of promoting tourism places in other countries, we thought of featuring our own. We wanted to try to help and make an impact on the Philippines," says In-A-Jiffy president Andres V. Sanchez Jr.

Sanchez tells the INQUIRER that the partnership with the DOT took root in September 2003, when upon the recommendation of Odyssey owner Jimmy Lim, In-A-Jiffy approached the DOT about the plan to use pictures from its extensive library as background for the hundreds of songs contained in a Magic Sing chip.

WOW PHILIPPINES

The DOT readily agreed and that initial cooperation led to the signing of a memorandum of agreement allowing In-A-Jiffy to use the DOT's "Wow Philippines" tagline and "Biyahe Na" song as part of its marketing efforts.

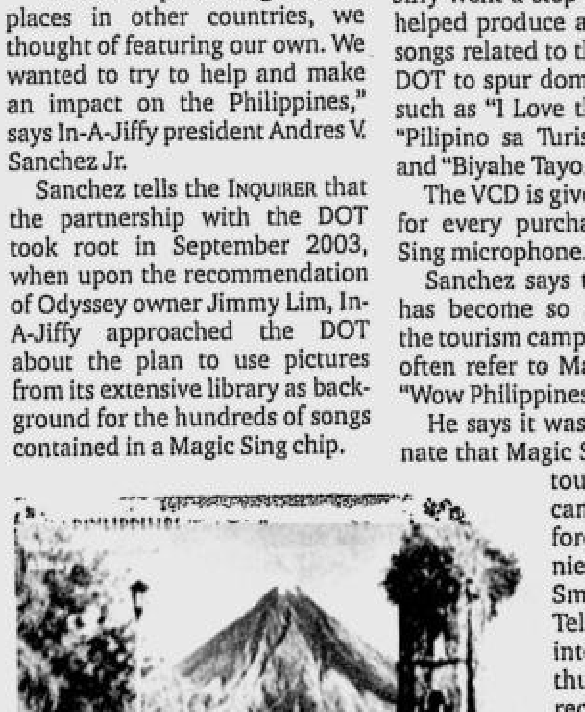
"We use tourism in all of our advertising campaigns. It is our way of helping boost tourism, and it has worked well," Sanchez says.

Aside from featuring tourist destinations in the videos, In-A-Jiffy went a step further when it helped produce a VCD featuring songs related to the efforts of the DOT to spur domestic tourism—such as "I Love the Philippines", "Pilipino sa Turismo ay Aktibo" and "Biyahe Tayo."

The VCD is given away for free for every purchase of a Magic Sing microphone.

Sanchez says that Magic Sing has become so associated with the tourism campaign that people often refer to Magic Sing as the "Wow Philippines" microphone.

He says it was probably fortunate that Magic Sing got into the tourism awareness campaign long before bigger companies, such as Pfizer, Smart and Globe Telecom Inc., got into the picture, thus, it got better recognition.



As the tourism awareness campaign took off, so did the sales of Magic Sing.

In-A-Jiffy estimated that Magic Sing's sales went up by almost 50 percent since the campaign started.

It shows that if you sincerely try to do something good, you get something good in return, Sanchez says.

Magic Sing microphones first came into the Philippines in 1998 with the entry of EnterTech Co. Ltd. of Korea. In-A-Jiffy took over the distribution in January 2003.

Since then, it has partnered with over 300 dealers and networks, including record stores, and this partnership made the Wow! Magic Sing Premium as the best-selling videoke microphone in the market.

In-A-Jiffy has also taken to sponsoring a television program that features successful entrepreneurs in the countryside.

"My dream is to duplicate the success of the Viewside restaurant in Tagaytay, which after being featured became very successful," Sanchez says.

From just five employees when the restaurant was first featured on television, it now has close to 100 staff serving the growing cadre of customers flocking the restaurant, whose first claim to fame were the pictures of the 1965 eruption of Taal volcano.

Dubbed Trip ni TJ, the segment hosted by TJ Manotoc goes around the different provinces to look for small businesses with great potential of making it big.

"It is the least we can do for our country," he says.

There's much more to your TV set than meets the eye

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN new president and CEO of Sony Philippines Inc. Hiroaki Kobayashi was assigned in Manila, he studied the revenue records of the firm and wondered why revenues were flat. This, despite the fact that demand for TV sets and other home entertainment items and digital cameras—major products of Sony—were on the rise in the country.

Upon further scrutiny of the figures, he realized there may be a mismatch in the items Sony chose to sell in the country and what the local market needs.

Kobayashi points out in the past Sony brought in "middle to low products" but their market in the Philippines, considering the new product line of the Japanese firm, is the high-end one.

Sony DVD Player

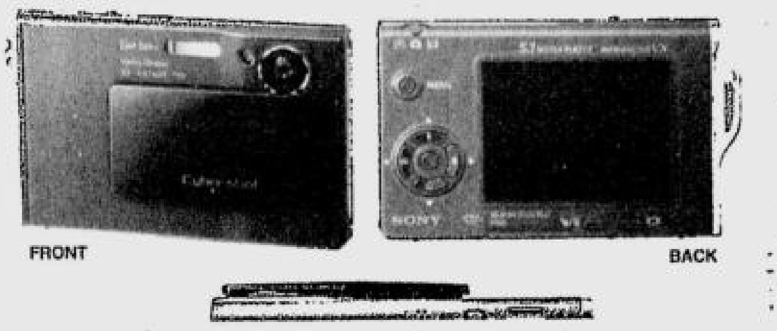
HIROAKI Kobayashi talks about Sony Solutions.

Kobayashi cites that for the longest time, the home entertainment systems consisted of boxes—the TV set, the stereo, the speakers. Today, however technology has reached strides that create a multiple of functions for the TV box.

This is what Sony is trying to push these days. What it calls "Sony solutions." Your TV, connected with wires, cables and other gadgets can provide your needs beyond just watching the news or HBO. You can watch your child's birthday party by inserting the Sony Memory Stick from your Handycam in the Sony TV and so on.

To highlight the interconnectability of Sony products, Sony Philippines, via a dealer, recently opened its Sony Square in Makati, an interactive shop which has all the high-end gadgets of the Japanese firm. It shows the application of these in Sony's various products.

Kobayashi admits that worldwide, people still buy the same basic things—TV, sound systems, digital camera. But Sony's thrust now is to allow the owners of these items more flexibility in their uses—the TV can be used for the Internet, digital camera with its computer can be used to create home videos of movies.

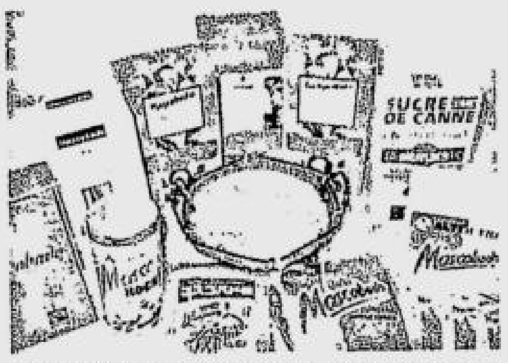


Worldwide, in a bid to distinguish its solutions line from the basic offerings, Sony launched a campaign called "like no other" which in three words says their position that their products are unique and one of a kind.

'Like no other' is a major brand positioning that is part of the Sony electronics business' drive to engage with its core markets and maximize growth in an increasingly competitive consumer electronics market.

Sony introduced many firsts in the market such as the transistor radio, audiocassettes, Trinitron television, the Walkman, the Discman, the Play Station, the Handycam, Grand Wega.

Sony recorded annual sales of some $72 billion for the fiscal year that ended March 21, 2004. The firm has been in the Philippines for almost 50 years already.



DEMAND for muscovado has been on the rise. Below, workers mix the chemical-free sugar.

That swiss choco...

From page B2-1

markets, specialty shops and organic shops and *pasalubong* centers now carry the product.

Humble beginnings

Alter Trade Corp.'s business began in 1987 when a group of peoples organizations were deliberating how to help the marginal sugar producing towns of Negros at a time when farmgate prices were very low.

Members and directors of Japan-based Kyouseisha Cooperative decided to import Mascobado sugar from Negros to help the poor struggling farmers then. Mascobado (muscovado) was the first alternative product traded by the company in 1987, documents showed.

The said alternative trading still exists today and the company still acquires the raw sugar from eight municipalities in Bago City, Negros Occidental. Alter Trade Corp.'s sugar purchases actually supports 35 peoples organizations' cooperatives with about 1,812 members.

Mondejar cites that part of the loans acquired from OikoCredit-Netherlands will go for more purchases of sugarcane from farmer-cooperatives and production of organic fertilizers.

"These sugar farms all went through a conversion to organic farming to meet the strict requirements of our clients," she explains.

Aside from muscovado, the company also exports *balangon* or fresh green bananas to Japan.

Challenges

The demand for the organically grown muscovado in the international and local market is more than the company could meet.

A study on the Philippine muscovado industry commissioned by the Philippine Development Assistance Program Inc. showed local and foreign demand for muscovado has been increasing at 20 to 30 percent a year.

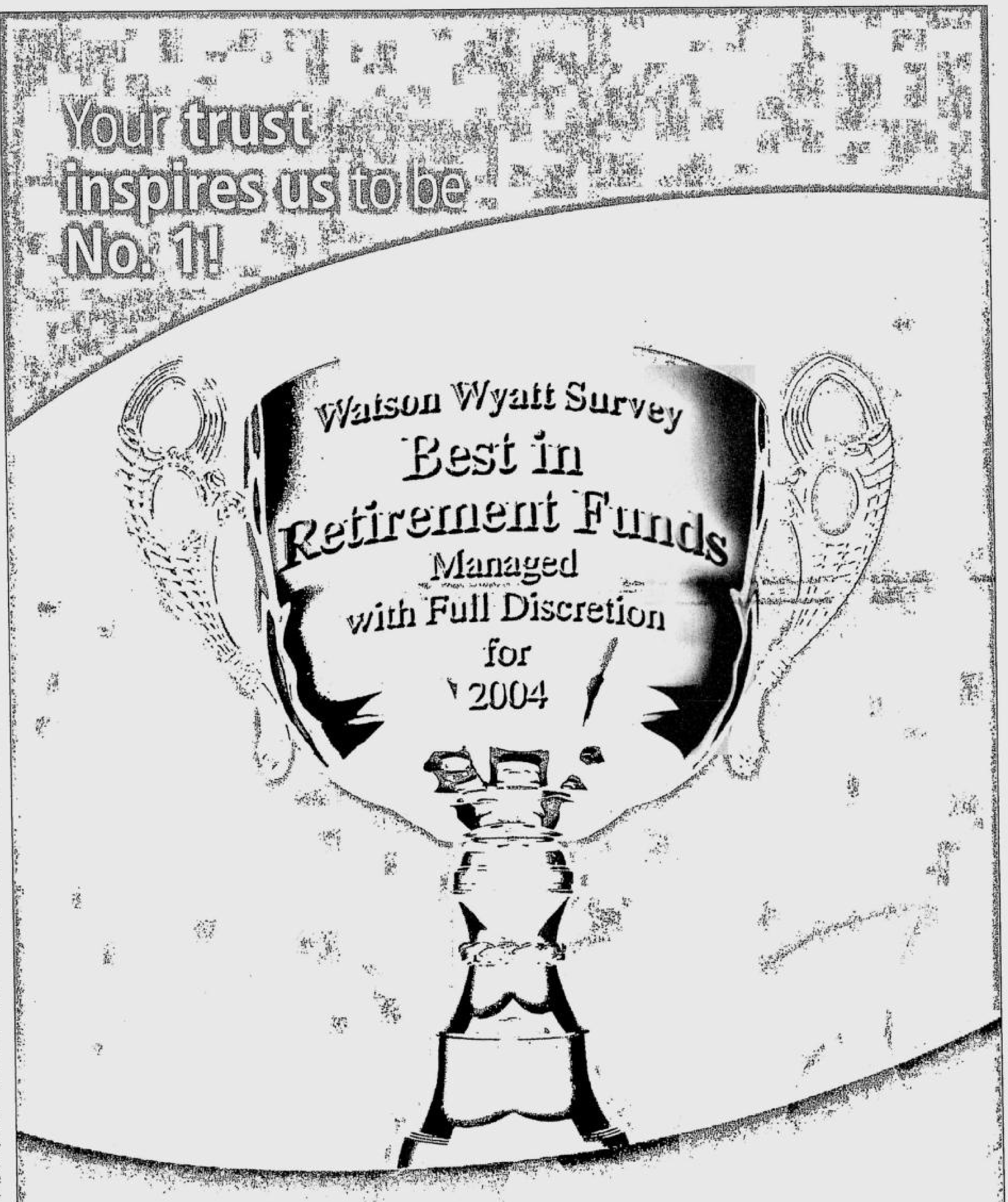
The growing demand for the Philippine muscovado sugar is on the rise as the domestic and foreign market now preferred it as the healthier alternative against the white refined sugar. Muscovado is considered a healthy alternative since there are no chemicals added during production, unlike white, refined sugar.

However, the local production of muscovado sugar has not increased to meet the global demand. According to a study commissioned by PDAP, that muscovado production dropped significantly from 58,424 metric tons in 1987 to just 10,207 metric tons in 2001.

The decline was largely attributed to the closure of a number of muscovado mills and conversion of sugarcane areas into rice farms, the study said.

PDAP executive director Jerry Pacturan says in another interview that the revival of the muscovado industry is now hedged on extending incentives to local farmers in order to shift on producing the crop.

He notes that there is also a need to come up with a set of production standards to guide the local muscovado industry.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SM Foundation

Congratulates Class 2005 Graduates of the SM College Scholarship Program

SM Foundation recently honored the ninth batch of graduates of its College Scholarship Program at simple but heartwarming ceremonies graced by no less than SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. and Mrs. Felicidad Sy. The College Scholarship Program, which is one of the major ways SM Foundation reaches out to the less fortunate has 400 scholars at any given time. To date, the program has a total of [illegible] scholar graduates, who have found good work opportunities both here and abroad.

Magna Cum Laude

GIGANTE, DOLORES G.
New Era University
BSBA major in Banking and Finance

Cum Laude

ALDANA, MA. LUISA S.
Philippine Normal University
Bachelor in Elementary Education

ANDRES, APRIL JOY R.
Philippine Normal University
BSE major in Biology

BAUTISTA, LEAH MONICA L.
Philippine Normal University
BS Chemistry for Teachers

BORDALBA, PAULINE E.
Cebu Normal University
BS Education major in Mathematics

CABRALES, IRENE F.
Philippine Normal University
Bachelor in Elementary Education

CENIZA, ARLINA R.
Philippine Normal University
BS Education major in Biology

CHUA, ANA JANE B.
Mapua Institute of Technology
BS Electronics & Comm. Engineering

DIVINA, EDUARDO P.
Philippine Normal University
BS Biology for Teachers

ENCINA, MYRA C.
Philippine Normal University
[illegible]

IMPORTANTE, OMEGA FE M.
Central Philippine University - Iloilo
BS Accountancy

LAGULA, MARIE KRISHNA L.
Cavite State University
BSBA major in Marketing

ONDOT, MARBET E.
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
BS Accountancy

ORDANIEL, ANGELIC Q.
Philippine Normal University
BS Biology for Teachers

RICO, JESSEVEL [illegible]
Philippine Normal University
Bachelor in Elementary Education

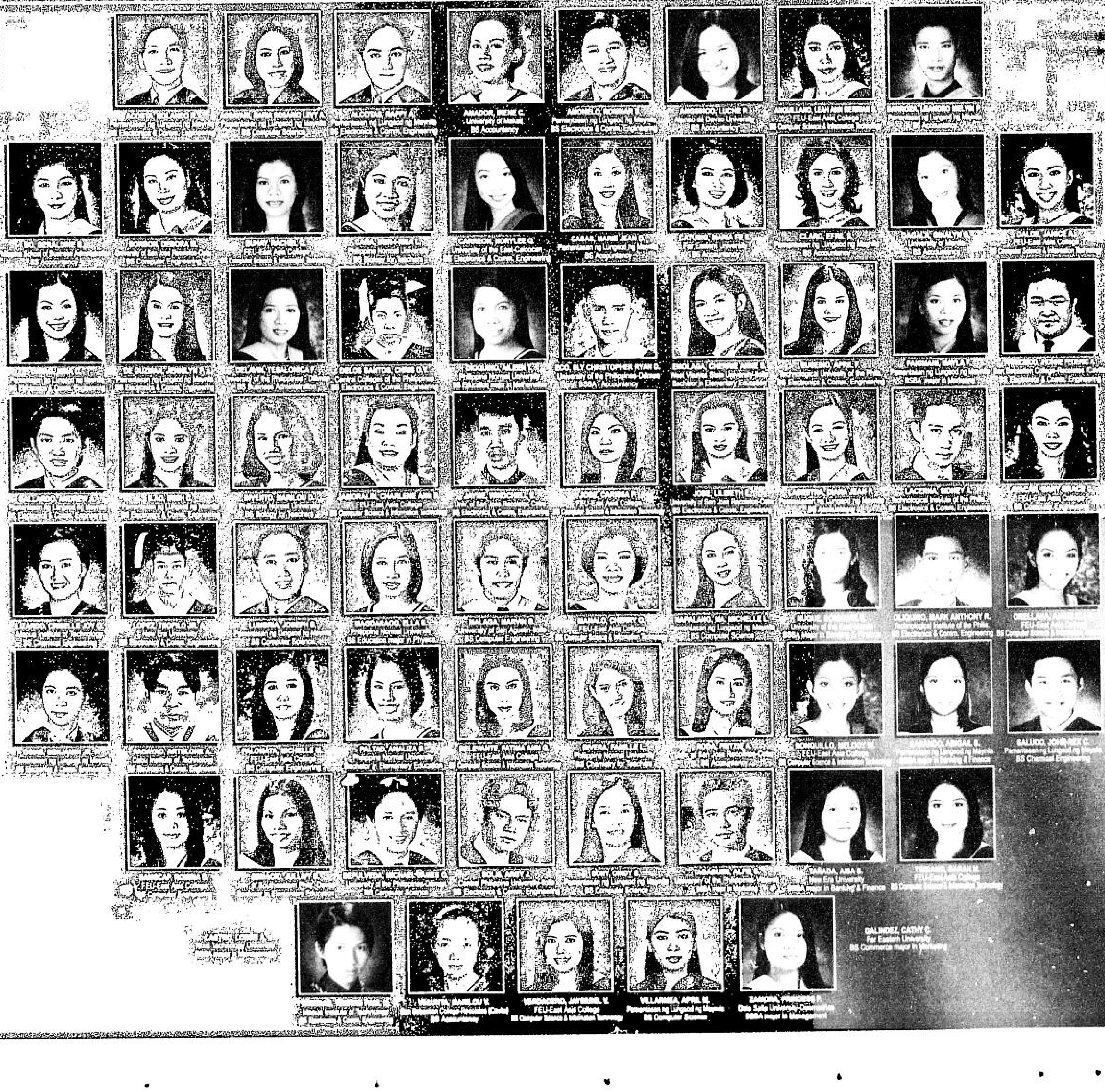
TALAMAN, LIEZL A.
Philippine Normal University
BS Biology for Teachers

VERANO, GLENN E.
University of Southeastern Phil. - Davao
Bachelor in Elementary Education

ZAGUIRRE, DORIS B.
Philippine Normal University
BS Education major in Mathematics

Dean's Awardee

[illegible]



VILLARMIA, APRIL M.
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
BS Computer Science

GALINDEZ, CATHY C.
Far Eastern University
BS Commerce major in Marketing

LIFESTYLE

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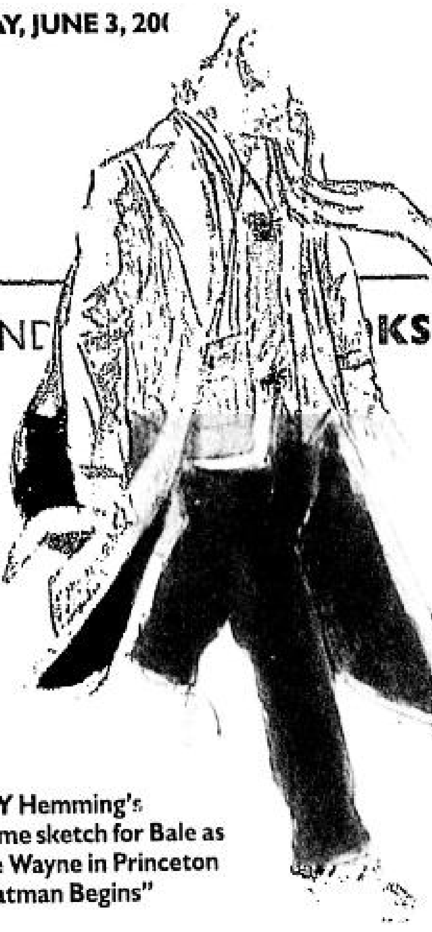
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MOND KS • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



LINDY Hemming's costume sketch for Bale as Bruce Wayne in Princeton in "Batman Begins"

Suiting up the Dark Knight

CHRISTIAN Bale

Batman finally gets costumes that fit like a glove

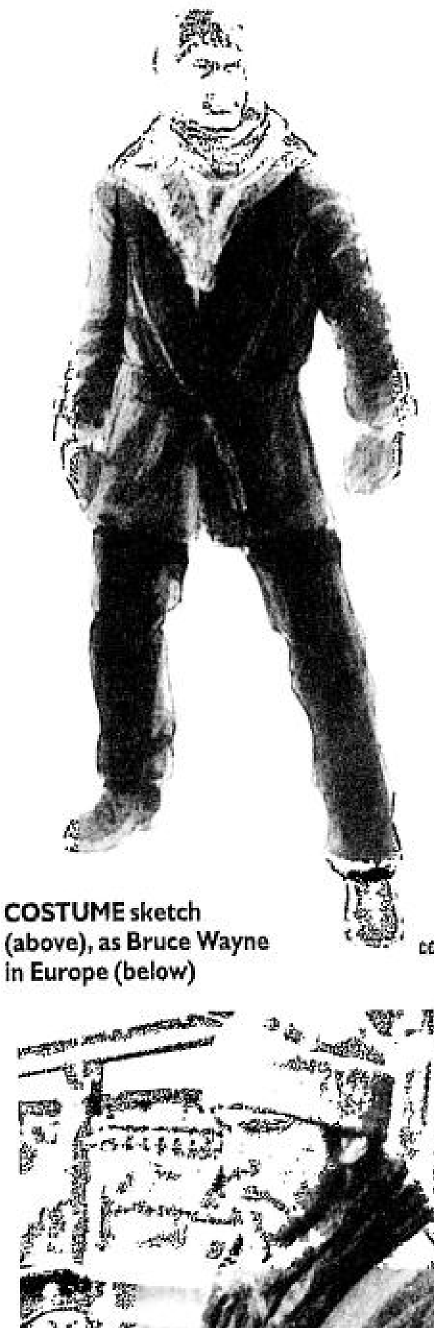
BATMAN'S image invokes something primal, almost bestial, striking terrible fear in the hearts of those the Dark Knight has sworn to defeat.

It was imperative to the filmmakers of the new action-adventure "Batman Begins" that the Batsuit allows actor Christian Bale to strike that menacing chord.

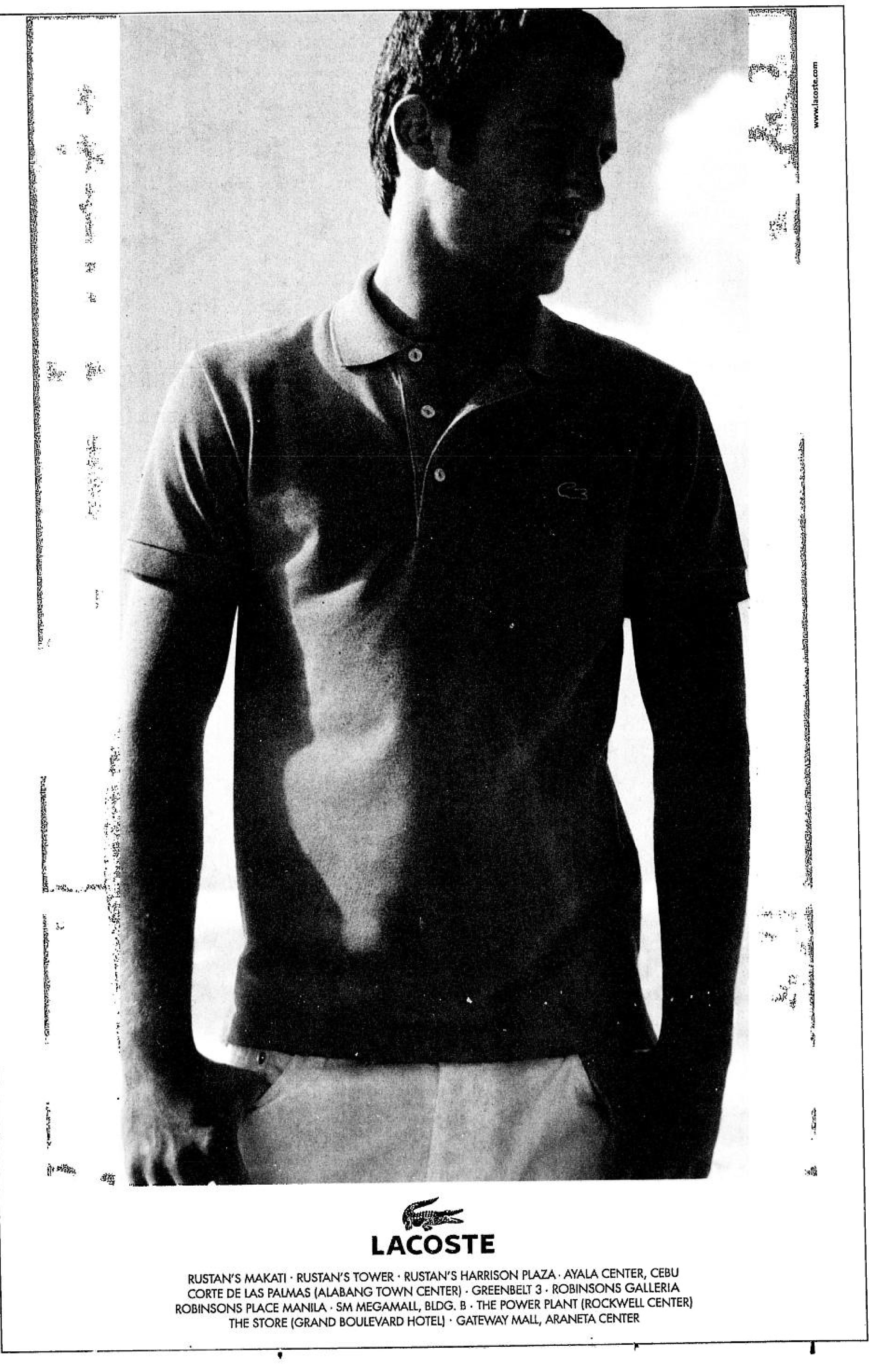
"I looked at the great comics and graphic novels through the history of 'Batman' to try and distill the essence of what those extraordinary pictures and drawings were saying about what Batman should look like," says di-

SUITING/ C7

BALE as the Dark Knight and billionaire Bruce Wayne



COSTUME sketch (above), as Bruce Wayne in Europe (below)



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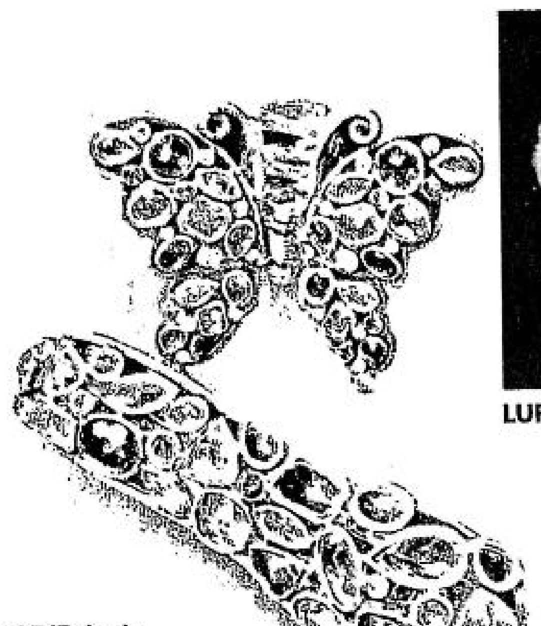
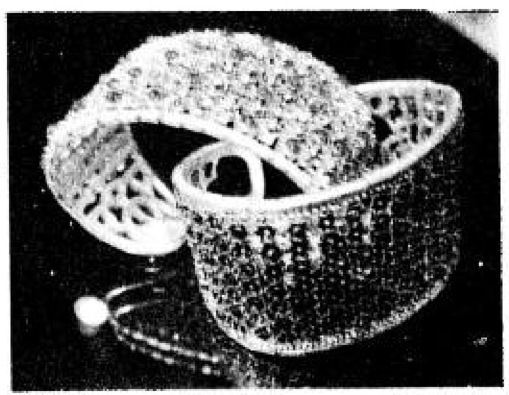
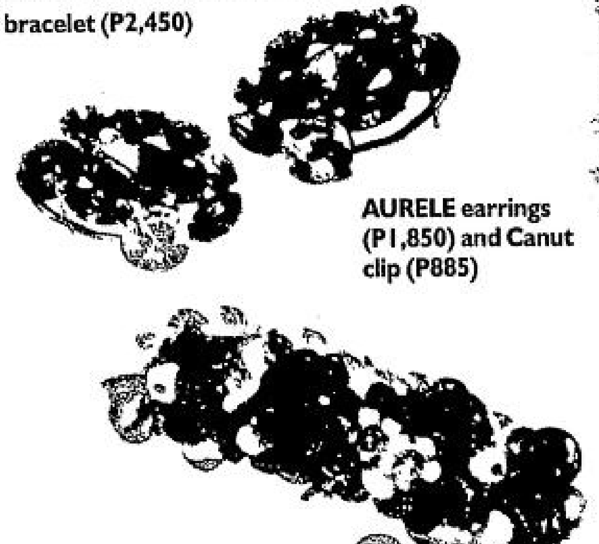
ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA · SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER)
THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER



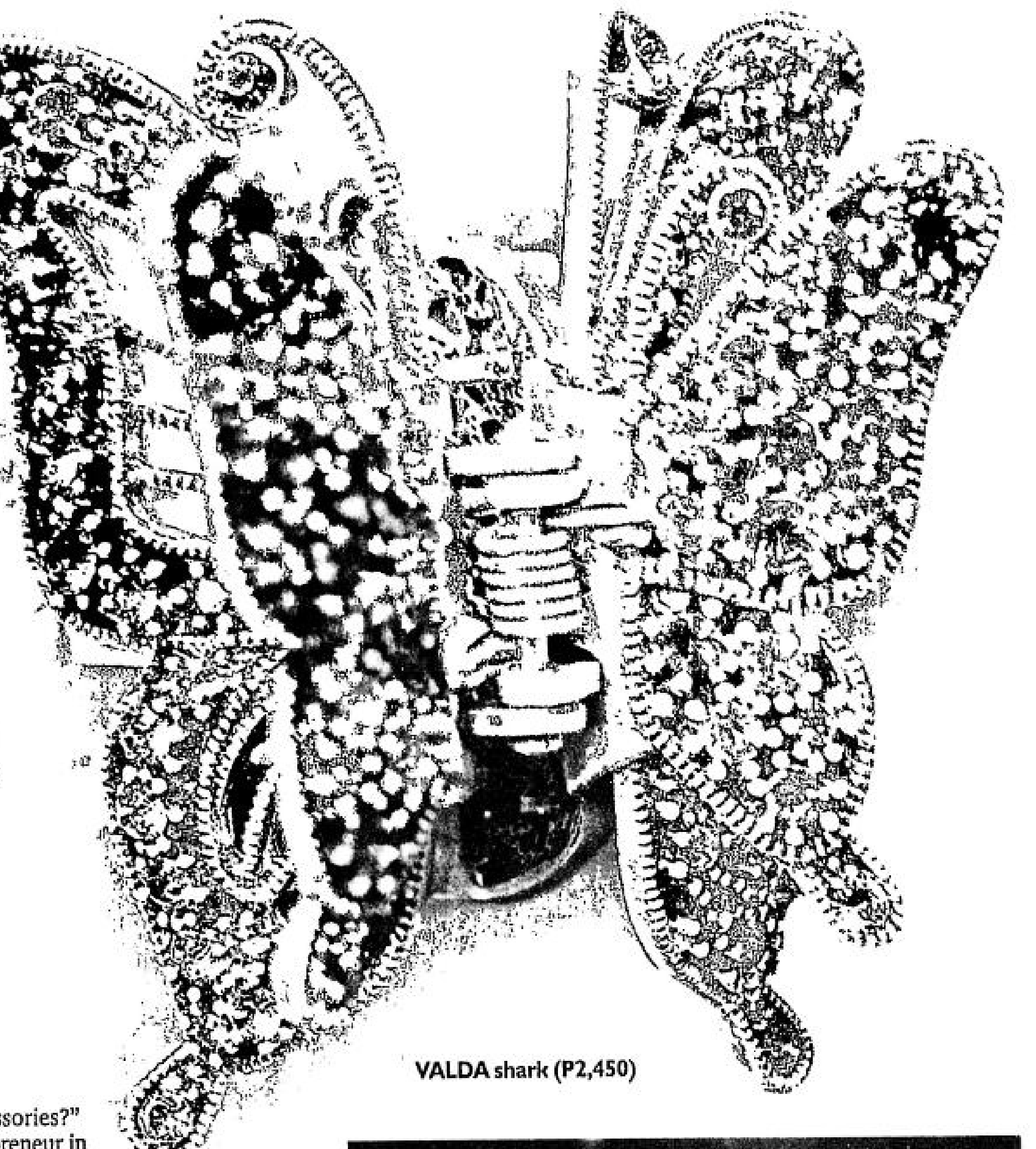
SADIE shark (top, P2,450), Biba clip (P2,450)



LUPIN bracelet (P2,450)



AURELE earrings (P1,850) and Canut clip (P885)



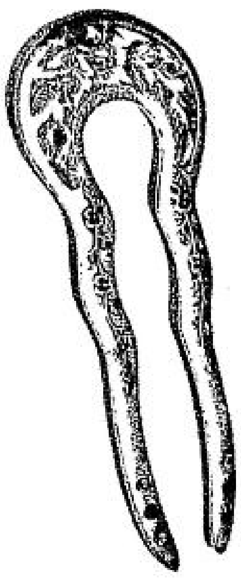
VALDA shark (P2,450)

Viva Evita!

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by August de la Cruz

WHAT'S in a name? In the case of this accessories brand, the founders simply decided their brand needed a catchy name that had immediate recall.

Evita Peroni has nothing to do with the famous Argentinean figure, nor does it trace its roots to Italy. It is actually a Danish brand for a wide selection of hair accessories, fashion jewelry, eyewear and handbags sold in over 30 countries, in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, the United States and Asia. The family behind it has been in the trade for over 40 years, though the brand itself wasn't established until 1988.

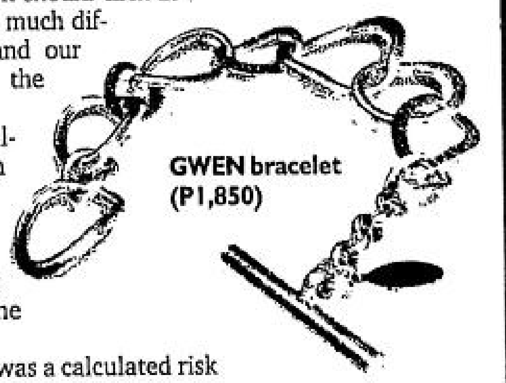


JOANNE stick (P940)

Why go to Bangkok?

"My wife and my sister always loved to shop at Evita Peroni in Bangkok," says Chito Santos, who brought the franchise here in December. "At first I didn't get it. Why would they go all the way there to buy accessories?"

But it wasn't long before the entrepreneur in him knew he had hit on an idea. "If it was so popular in Bangkok, then it should click in Manila. Our tastes are not much different from the Thais', and our economies are almost the same."



GWEN bracelet (P1,850)

Evita Peroni was also already doing well in Asian countries like Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam before Santos brought the brand to the Philippines.

Still, Santos admits, it was a calculated risk to launch a brand in this town where practically almost anyone can create her own fashion accessories (or knows someone who can), and where China-made hair accents at dirt-cheap prices abound.

Evita Peroni is aimed at 20- to 40-something working women who have some extra hundred pesos lying around for, say, a jeweled barrette, or a thousand pesos more for silver-plated fashion earrings with glass beads.

Name recall is everything, and proof of this is the Danish brand for accessories and jewelry

Durable plastic

It is for women who don't mind paying P140 each for every color of hair slide to add to their collection. It's the cheapest item in the range, a lookalike of which can retail for about P15 in Divisoria.

"Most of the products are made in Europe," says Santos, showing a plastic hair slide that was manufactured in France. He bends another plastic headband to demonstrate its resilience, which, he says, can't be said of inferior mass-produced plastic items from China.

The "plastic" Evita Peroni uses is actually Italian acetate sheet. All products are developed in Copenhagen.

"I don't think there's any other brand with the same concept here. We sell to those who want something more exclusive, fashionable and of high-quality," Santos says.

Prices range from P140 for the hair accessories to about P5,000 for the handbags. Materials used include genuine leather, fur, metal, lace, Swarovski crystals, Italian acetate sheet, bird feathers, nylon, yarn.

Evita Peroni comes out with six collections annually. Santos says he brings in about 90 percent of the product line, limiting the supply to about four pieces for each design.

"We are often amazed that the funkier and more unusual pieces are the first to get sold out," he says. The mainstay hair accents already have regular clients whom the store calls when new colors arrive.

The bulk of Evita Peroni's collection is hair accessories. And it has worked to the brand's advantage that many Filipinas still prefer to keep their hair long or medium-length.

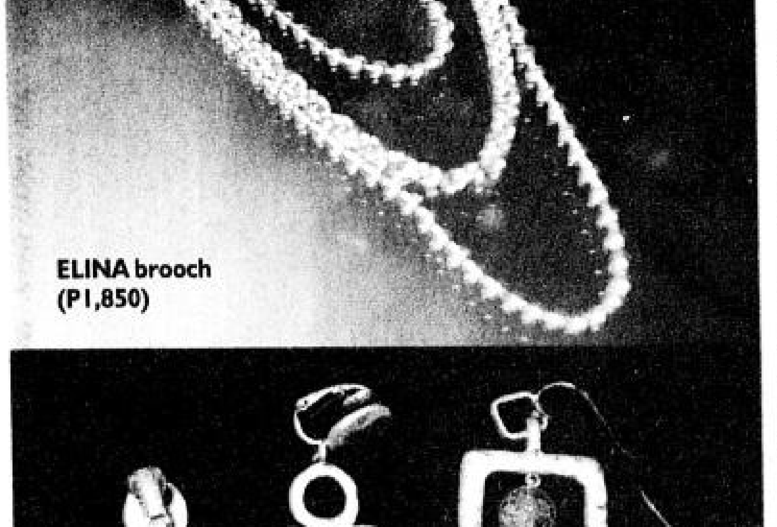
"The hair accessories are an easy way to change their looks," says Santos, without having to resort to outlandish haircuts or hair colors.

The shop provides instructional booklets on how to use the hair accents. Instructional videos are also played for clients in the store. The salesgirls are also trained to do demonstrations.

Evita Peroni's first RP shop is located in Eastwood Citywalk 2 in Libis, QC, where there is obviously slower foot traffic than, say, Makati malls. After only six months in operation, Santos is already set to open his second and third shops at SM Makati and Power Plant Mall in July and August, respectively.

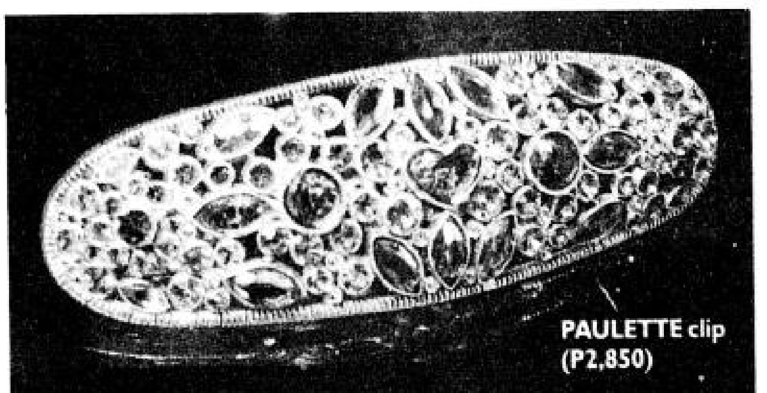
E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

ELINA brooch (P1,850)

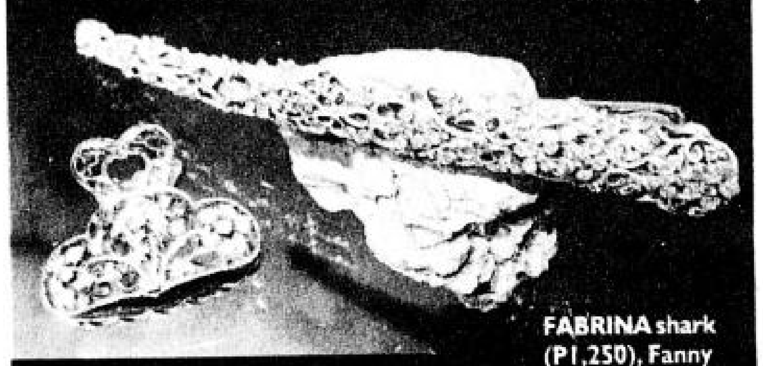


LIDY earrings (P1,650), Kirsti earrings (P1,450)

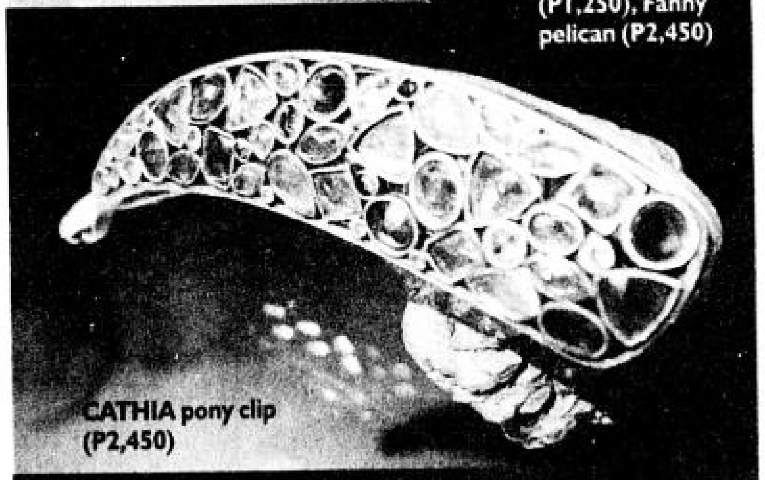
ANNELINE earrings (P1,650) and necklace (P2,650)



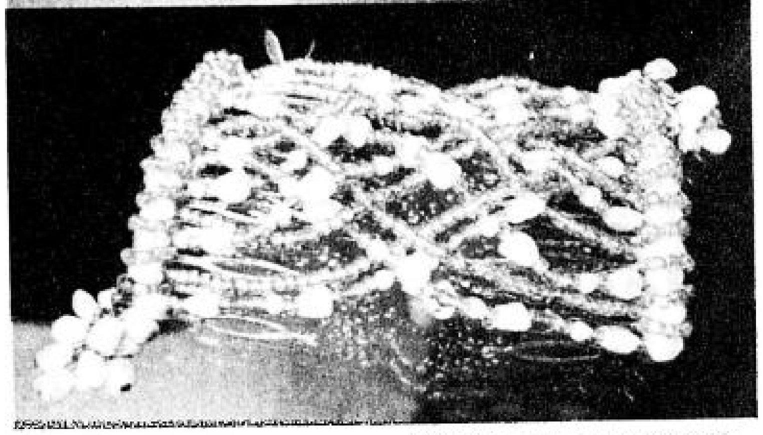
PAULETTE clip (P2,850)



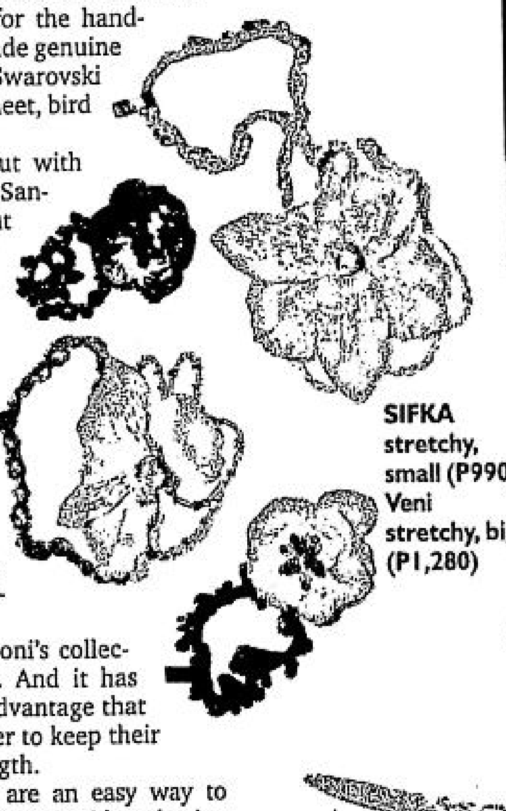
FABRINA shark (P1,250), Fanny pelican (P2,450)



CATHIA pony clip (P2,450)



HEART double comb (P1,280)



SIFKA stretchy, small (P990); Veni stretchy, big (P1,280)

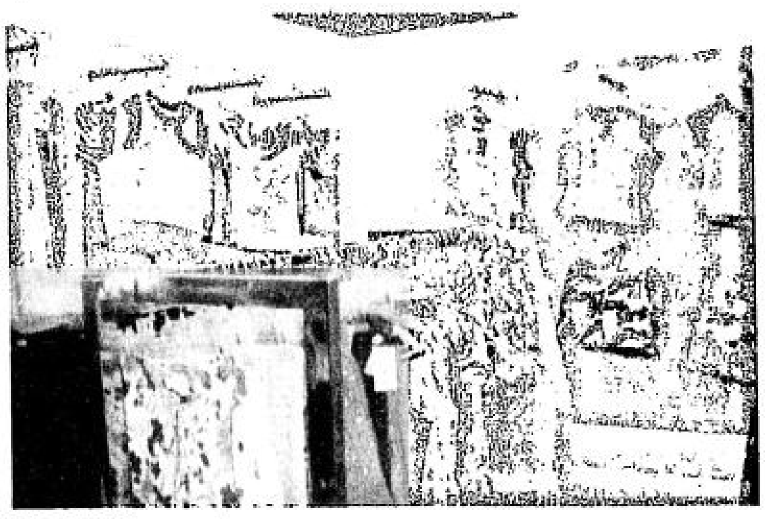
EVITA PERONI

DEBRA pony wrap (P895), Moira chignon (P1,050)

ELYETTE stick (P1,250)

CAPELLA stick (P1,250)

FOLDED & Hung's line of apparel and accessories



WOMEN'S apparel

SAMPLE of men's line

folded&hung
ILLEGALLY LOW JEANS

FAÇADE of F&H Glorietta store branch

The unfolding of a local fashion brand

FROM its beginnings as a simple clothes shop in Greenhills, Folded & Hung has become a powerhouse in the local fashion retail industry. It recently won Store of the Year, Operations Excellence and Marketing Excellence at the 7th Ayala Merchants Awards held at Greenbelt 3.

The awards gave recognition to shops in three Ayala malls—Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Makati and Ayala Center in Cebu—for their excellence as service providers.

At the end of the ceremonies, Alan Vianzon, F&H director of marketing and operations, had his hands full with four trophies, which he happily brought to F&H main main Ronald Pineda.

"It feels good that Ayala Land holds such awards every year. Merchandisers like us get recognized for what we do. It's like the Oscars," says Pineda. "We're so honored and happy, and it's an incentive for us to continuously improve."

He adds, "Folded & Hung is not your basic brand. We always come up with new things. " Proof of this are its many innovations, like the smash-hit "Illegally low jeans."

Folded & Hung has 20 outlets today, including two in Davao and Cebu. "We plan to build more stores and expand to provincial malls in Visayas and Mindanao. For this year, we are scheduled to open seven more stores and expand the product line especially in the denim and bath and body line," says Pineda.

THE F&H team: Kristel Pineda, Deng Pineda, JR Pineda, Fel Pineda, Alan Vianzon and Veronica Gonzalez

AYALA Land Inc.'s Jaime Ayala, Veronica Gonzalez and Alan Vianzon

CREATIVE team behind the F&H campaign

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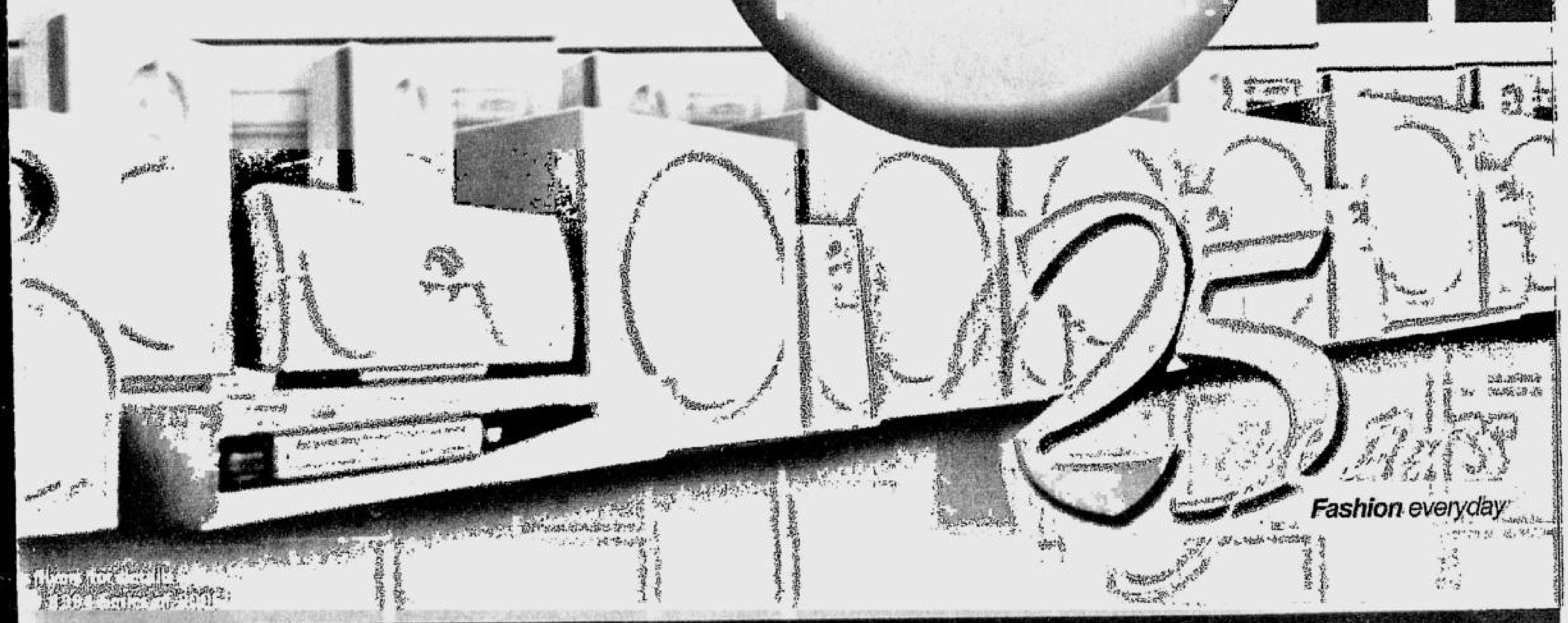
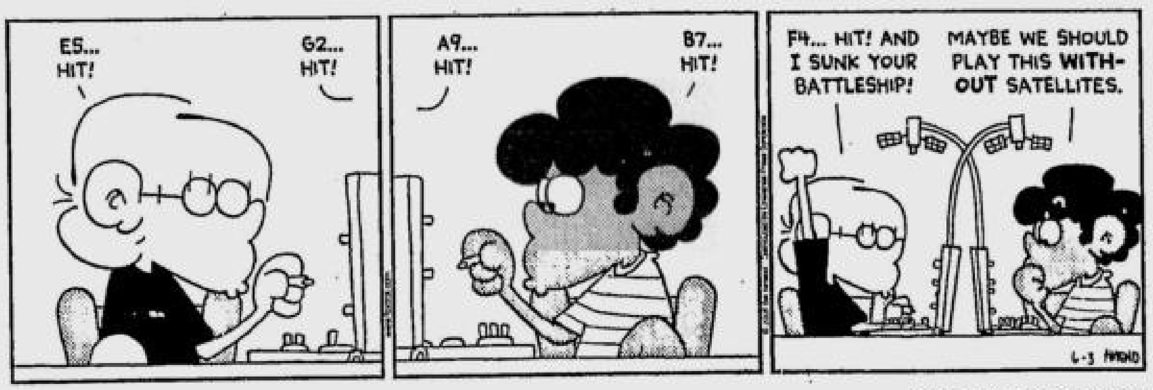


25

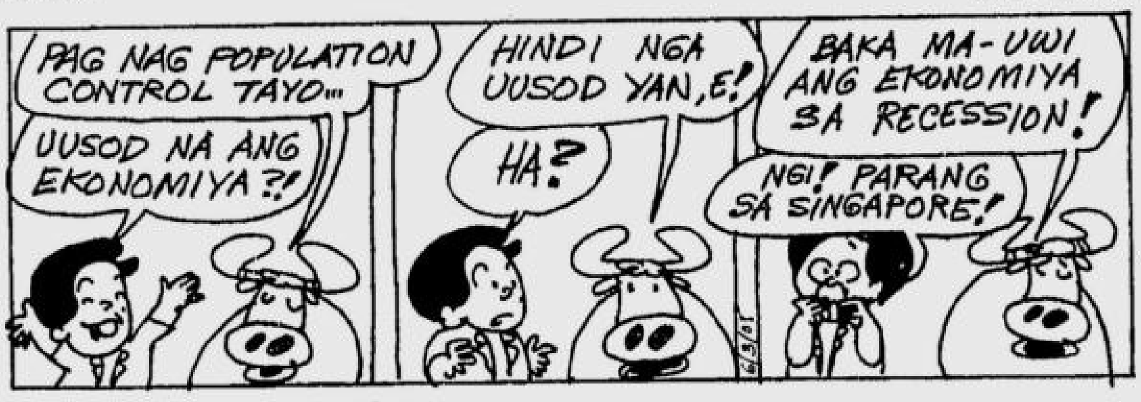
Fashion everyday

ria Flagship Store
Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga

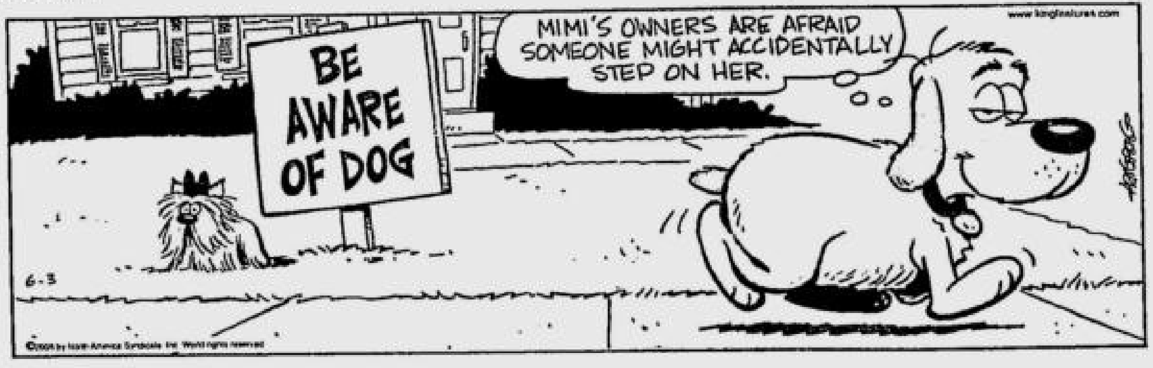
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


E5... HIT!
G2... HIT!
A9... HIT!
B7... HIT!
F4... HIT! AND I SUNK YOUR BATTLESHIP!
MAYBE WE SHOULD PLAY THIS WITHOUT SATELLITES.
6-3 AMEND

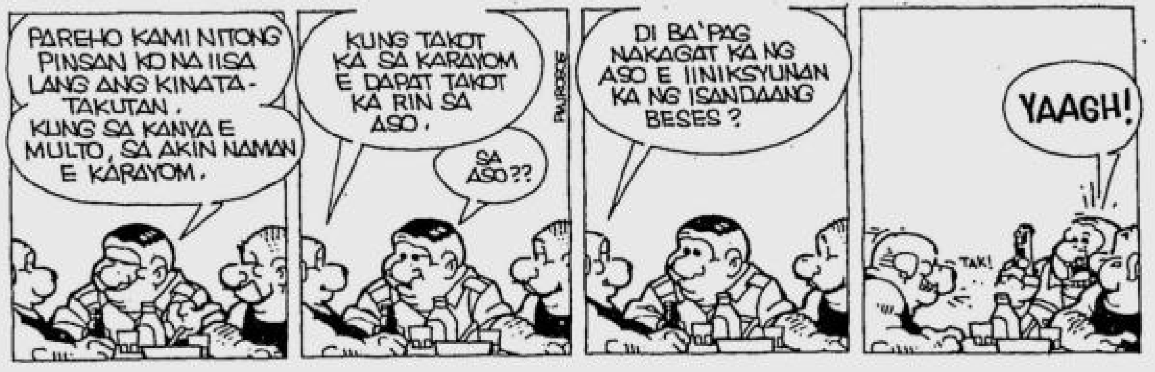
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PAG NAG POPULATION CONTROL TAYO...
UUSOD NA ANG EKONOMIYA ?!
HINDI NGA UUSOD YAN, E!
HA?
BAKA MA-UWI ANG EKONOMIYA SA RECESSION!
NGI! PARANG SA SINGAPORE!
6/3/05

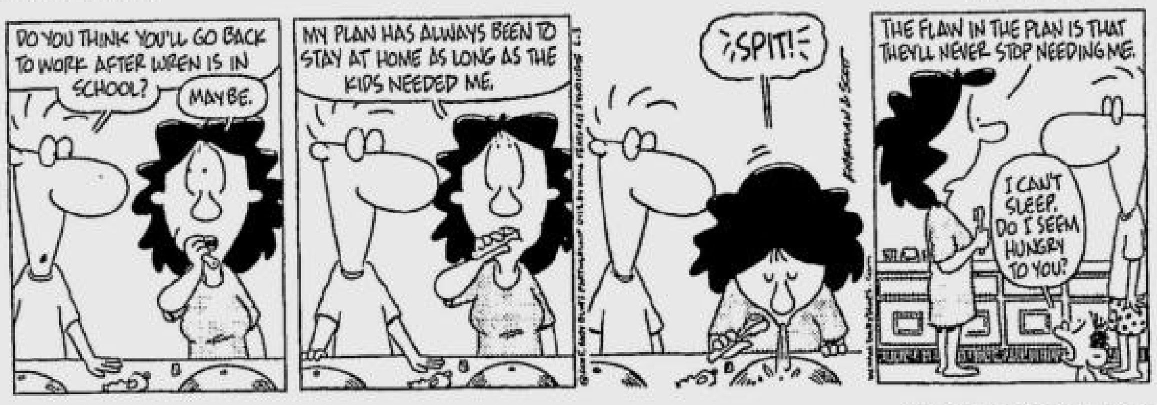
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


www.kingfeatures.com
BE AWARE OF DOG
MIMI'S OWNERS ARE AFRAID SOMEONE MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY STEP ON HER.
6-3

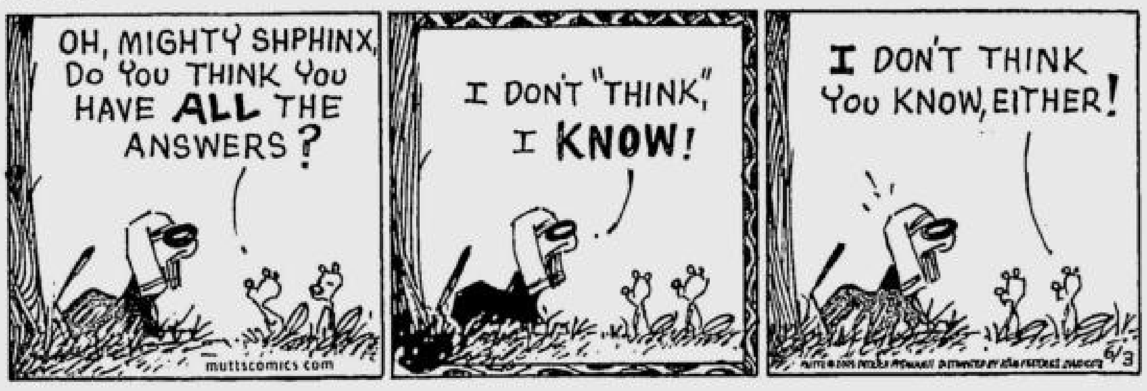
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAREHO KAMI NITONG PINSAN KO NA IISA LANG ANG KINATATAKUTAN. KUNG SA KANYA E MULTO, SA AKIN NAMAN E KARAYOM.
KUNG TAKOT KA SA KARAYOM E DAPAT TAKOT KA RIN SA ASO.
SA ASO??
DI BA'PAG NAKAGAT KA NG ASO E IINIKSYUNAN KA NG ISANDAANG BESES ?
YAAGH!
TAK!

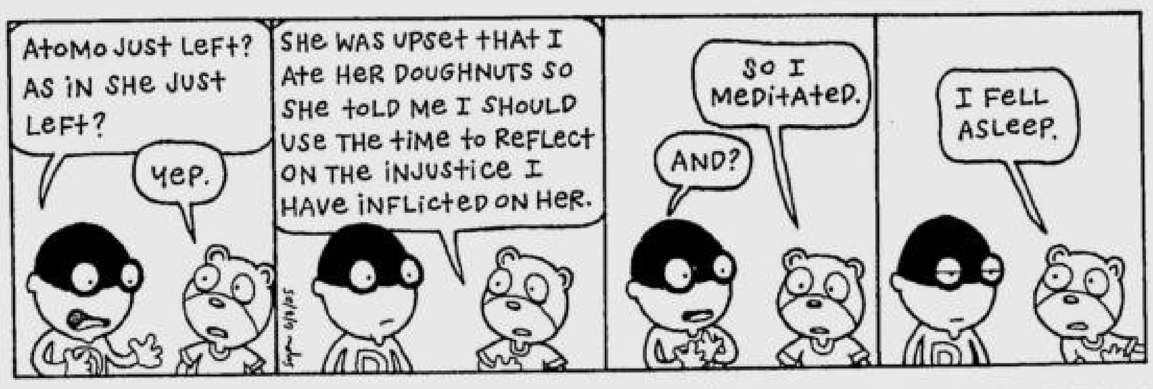
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GO BACK TO WORK AFTER WREN IS IN SCHOOL?
MAYBE.
MY PLAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO STAY AT HOME AS LONG AS THE KIDS NEEDED ME.
SPIT!
THE FLAW IN THE PLAN IS THAT THEY'LL NEVER STOP NEEDING ME.
I CAN'T SLEEP. DO I SEEM HUNGRY TO YOU?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

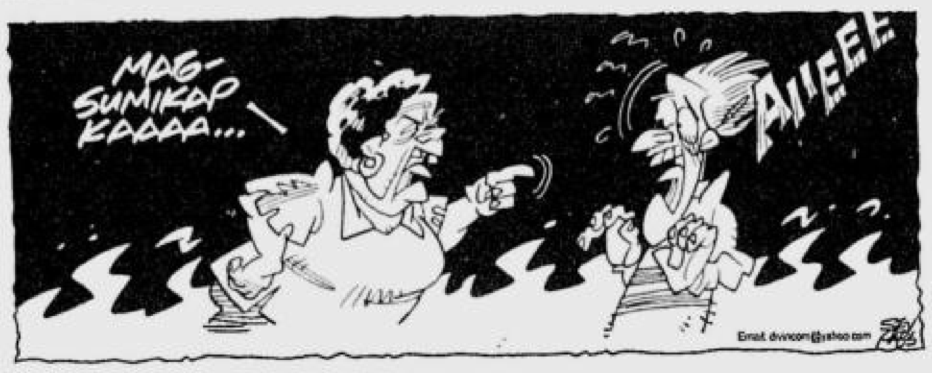
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MIGHTY SHPHINX, Do You THINK You HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS?
I DON'T "THINK," I KNOW!
I DON'T THINK You KNOW, EITHER!
muttscomics.com
6/3

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

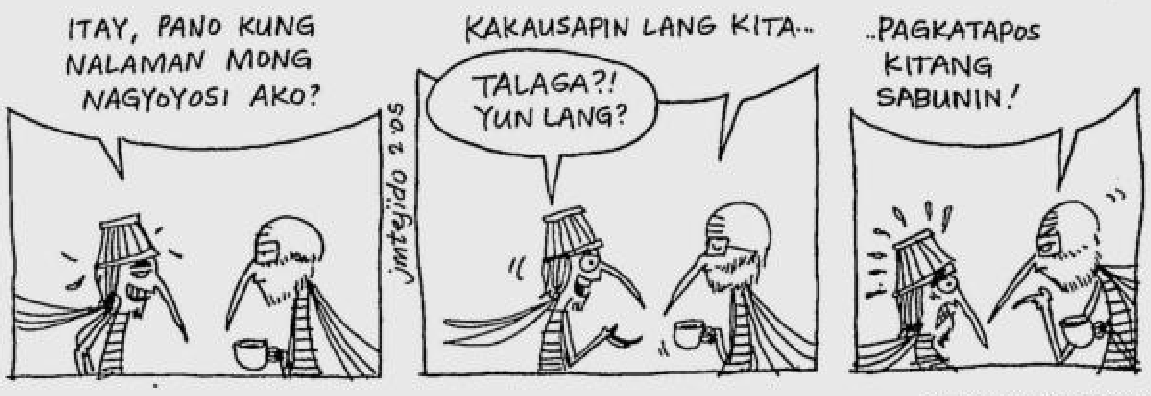

AtoMo Just Left? As in She Just Left?
yep.
She was upset that I Ate Her Doughnuts so She told me I Should use The time to Reflect on the injustice I Have inflicted on Her.
AND?
So I Meditated.
I Fell Asleep.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

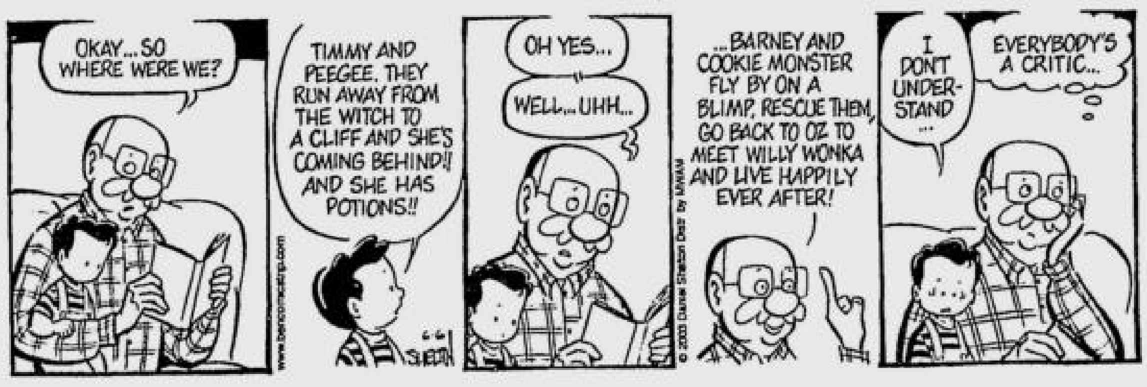

MAG-SUMIKAP KAAAA...
AIIEEE!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

LALONG NAGING IMPIYERNO ANG IMPIYERNO PARA KAY ARNOLD NANG NALAMAN NYA NA NAROON DIN PALA ANG KANYANG BIYENAN

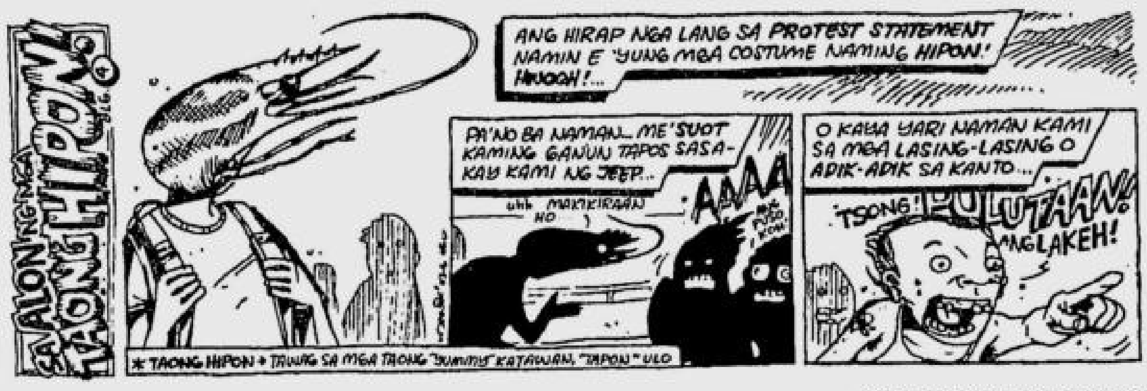
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, PANO KUNG NALAMAN MONG NAGYOYOSI AKO?
jmtejido 2 05
KAKAUSAPIN LANG KITA..
TALAGA?! YUN LANG?
..PAGKATAPOS KITANG SABUNIN!

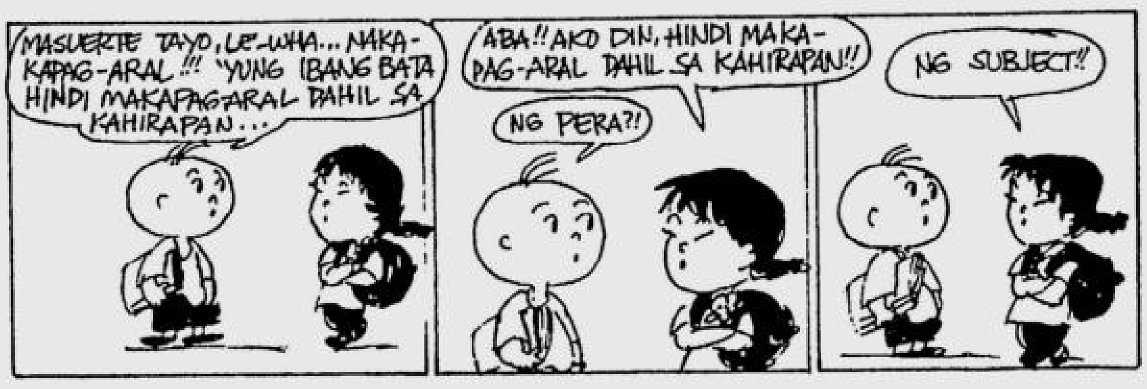
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY...SO WHERE WERE WE?
TIMMY AND PEEGEE. THEY RUN AWAY FROM THE WITCH TO A CLIFF AND SHE'S COMING BEHIND!! AND SHE HAS POTIONS!!
OH YES...
WELL...UHH...
...BARNEY AND COOKIE MONSTER FLY BY ON A BLIMP, RESCUE THEM, GO BACK TO OZ TO MEET WILLY WONKA AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC...

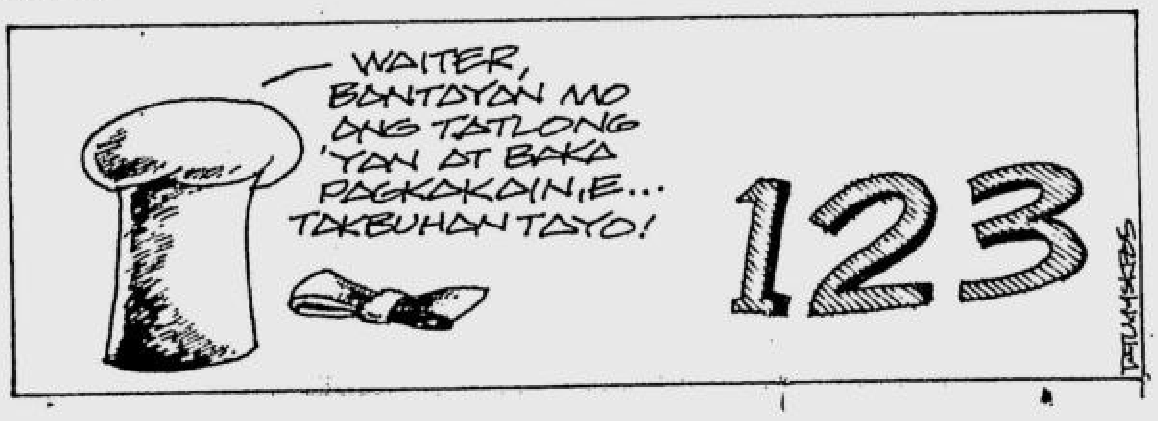
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SA ALON NG MGA TAONG HIPON*
ANG HIRAP NGA LANG SA PROTEST STATEMENT NAMIN E 'YUNG MGA COSTUME NAMING HIPON! HWOOH!...
PA'NO BA NAMAN... ME'SUOT KAMING GANUN TAPOS SASAKAY KAMI NG JEEP...
uhh MAKIKIRAAN NO
AAAA
O KAYA YARI NAMAN KAMI SA MGA LASING-LASING O ADIK-ADIK SA KANTO...
TSONG! PULUTAAN! ANG LAKEH!
* TAONG HIPON = TAWAG SA MGA TAONG "SUMIS" KATAWAN, "TAPON" ULO

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MASUERTE TAYO, LE-WHA... NAKAKAPAG-ARAL!!! 'YUNG IBANG BATA HINDI MAKAPAGARAL DAHIL SA KAHIRAPAN...
ABA!! AKO DIN, HINDI MAKAPAG-ARAL DAHIL SA KAHIRAPAN!!
NG PERA?!
NG SUBJECT!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAITER, BANTAYAN MO ANG TATLONG 'YAN AT BAKA PAGKAKAIN, E... TAKBUHAN TAYO!
123

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a generous spirit. You're also entertaining, witty and verbally convincing. You have strong principles, and you live by them. You invariably defend the underdog, and help those who are needy. You can be very direct when you need to be. The year ahead is full of new beginnings, fresh surprises and exciting possibilities. Birthdate of: Allen Ginsberg, writer; Lalaine Vergara-Paras, actress; Josephine Baker, entertainer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel strongly convinced you're right about something today. Because of this, you're convincing to others! You can influence people to agree with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Trust your moneymaking ideas today. It's OK to believe in yourself. Trust your good financial judgment. (Taurus is a sign of the banker!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You need privacy, solitude and time by yourself today. You're not afraid to work, but you would rather work alone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Venus moves into your sign, where it will stay for the rest of the month. This makes you particularly charming, agreeable and friendly with everyone. (Good time to patch up shaky relationships!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This will be a lovely, social month later. You feel you have something important to say today. Find the right people to communicate this to. (It's important to get it off your chest.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with bosses and parents are very significant today. For one thing, others will listen to you now. (You're convincing because you believe in what you are saying.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might learn something quite surprising or completely new through the media or contact with others in faraway places. Something amazes you, but it also definitely stretches your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a great day to research bills, debt, taxes and everything having to do with shared property. Your powers of concentration are excellent today!

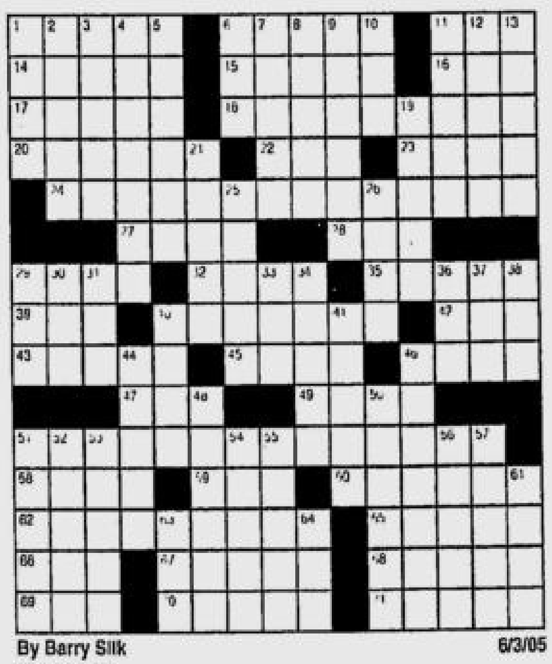
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's important to listen carefully to others today. The Sun and Mercury are perfectly lined up right opposite your sign. This means someone has something important to tell you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is the day to talk to co-workers about anything that is important to you. If you have a project that is dear to your heart that you want to push through, now is the time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your creative energy is strong today. You feel playful and are ready for fun. You need others to talk to today. You want people to share your good times!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Family discussions or matters connected with family businesses are significant today. You want to tell it like it is. This is also a good day to do repairs around the home.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

6/3/05

ACROSS
1 Thick slices
6 Tale of Aesop
11 Tablet
14 Soup server
15 Filmmaker Woody
16 Grammar-sch. trio
17 Having a line of symmetry
18 Miss
20 Jackson of "Women in Love"
22 Classical opener?
23 Billy of rock
24 Whitehorse location
27 Kuwaiti leader
28 Summer on the Somme
29 Language unit
32 Turner of tunes
35 Refuse
39 Time period
40 Jabber incessantly
42 Greek letter
43 Unstressed vowel
45 Etc.'s cousin
46 Whipping scar
47 Letters from "Treasure Island"
49 Hindquarters
51 New Haven school
58 Burden
59 Singer DiFranco
60 Gave ten percent
62 Beatles classic
65 Seek redemption
66 Toronto's prov.
67 Goldoni of "Shadows"
68 Wasp homes
69 Barnyard pen
70 Sassy
71 Be stealthy

DOWN
1 Metal waste
2 Without discipline
3 Nice farewell?
4 Shut out
5 Infrequently
6 Wray of "King Kong"
7 Single-handedly
8 More depressed
9 Poe's lost love
10 Chang's twin
11 Madrid museum
12 Passion
13 Matter-of-factly
19 Cubic decimeter
21 Actress Ekberg
25 Nonsense
26 __-bitty
29 Bridge teams?
30 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
31 Fan's cheer
33 _ "King" Cole
34 Not in the dark
36 Had lunch
37 Actor Mineo
38 Grass house
40 Korean border river
41 Wide-awake
44 Take forcibly
46 In longhand
48 Trapper
50 Most of the world's people
51 Spinning toys
52 Regarding
53 Hot-blooded
54 Art house film
55 Perfume bottles
56 That plural
57 Gossipmonger
61 Work station
63 Santa's aide
64 Cry of derision

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	L	L	I	D	E	■	B	I	G	G	A	M	E
A	R	I	O	S	O	S	■	A	N	N	U	L	A	R
W	F	D	O	N	O	T	■	S	C	A	L	I	N	G
■	■	■	S	T	R	E	P	■	I	S	L	E	■	■
E	P	E	E	■	■	S	E	E	T	H	I	N	G	S
S	I	G	N	A	L	■	R	T	E	■	B	E	E	T
P	E	C	■	P	O	U	C	H	■	F	L	E	E	S
■	■	■	A	S	T	H	E	Y	A	R	E	■	■	■
H	O	U	S	E	■	H	I	L	D	A	■	F	E	W
O	W	N	S	■	S	U	V	■	S	T	A	B	L	E
W	F	S	E	E	T	H	E	M	■	■	S	I	F	T
■	■	O	S	L	O	■	S	E	A	T	S	■	■	■
A	B	U	S	I	V	E	■	A	S	W	E	A	R	E
D	E	N	O	T	E	S	■	T	H	O	R	N	E	D
A	D	D	R	E	S	S	■	S	Y	S	T	E	M	S

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6/3/05

Youthful charms

SHAINA in full bloom. Orange tank top underneath a baby-blue cardigan matched with Herbench khaki skirt

WHITE printed tank top underneath black Herbench jacket paired with black Herbench skirt

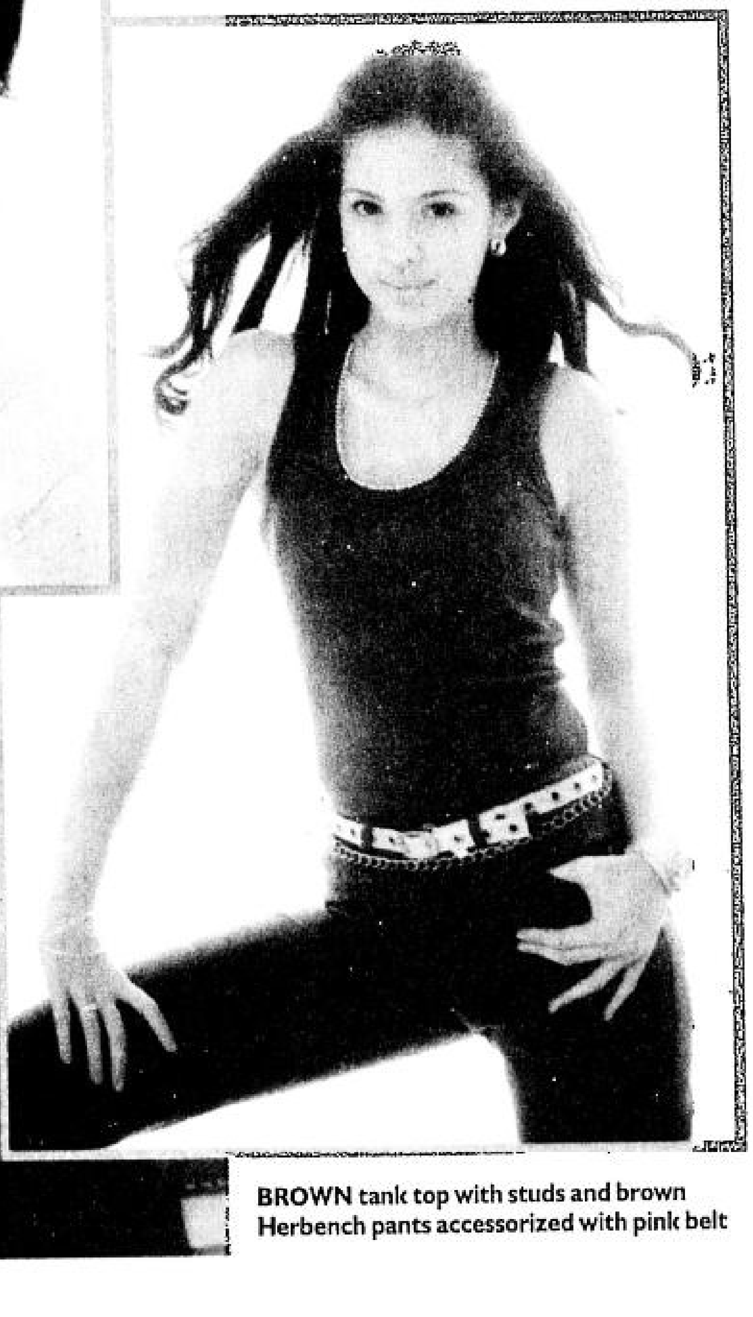
HERBENCH, the country's leading women's apparel line, considers itself fortunate to have Shaina Magdayao as one of its prime image endorsers.

In Herbench's latest collection, see Shaina in a gray Bench muscle tee and Overhauled denim pants. For a casual school or mall getup, try on a white cotton tee matched with Herbench white pants, or a white printed tank top with a black denim skirt. Or get a feel of the late summer breeze wearing a polka-dotted spaghetti blouse and khaki shorts.

Also, get chic with a Herbench brown tank top with studs paired with Herbench brown bottoms. And to complete that Herbench look, accessorize with silver bracelets and bangles, and colorful leather in blue, pink and white.

POLKA-DOTTED blouse with spaghetti straps perfectly matches a pair of Herbench khaki shorts accessorized with a white and blue belt

HERBENCH combed cotton crewneck tee and casual pants



BROWN tank top with studs and brown Herbench pants accessorized with pink belt

Suiting up the Dark Knight

From page C1

rector Christopher Nolan. "Each artist interprets the costume differently, but there are these common aspects that define the essence of the character."

Costume designer Lindy Hemming ("Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "Lara Croft Tomb Raider") was no less challenged in creating actor Christian Bale's other costumes as Batman's alter ego, Bruce Wayne.

"In designing for Bruce Wayne, I tried to choose everything to look subtly expensive, and to make sure that it all fitted him beautifully. I tried to keep his look like a very modern man in all his suits, someone that people would aspire to look like, rather than let him become stuffy in any way."

Hemming continues, "One of the most difficult costumes was the costume when Bruce comes home from Princeton. We had to try and keep Christian looking like a very young man, but by then he was physically as big as he was going to be the next day when he puts on the Batsuit. And that was hard to do, to keep all the lines rather soft and droopy and keep him from looking bulky."

Functional

Hemming says Nolan wanted the Batsuit designed not just to look at, but also to be very functional.

"He (Nolan) wanted the legs to be supple so (Bale) could crouch down when necessary, and he very much wanted Christian to be able to move his head and not have to do the superhero movement of turning the shoulders and the head at once." (Full head movement was not possible in previous Batsuits.)

The Batsuit designed by Hemming and her team has a neoprene undersuit, much like a diver's wet suit, with molded cream latex sections adhered to it.

"The suit is made of waterproof armor with components inside that maintain the body temperature and keep the muscles from freezing up, so it's multi-functional," says Hemming.

Seven separate latex sections comprise the Batsuit: the knees, calves, legs, arms, torso, spine and cowl.

Sculpted

Bale was sculpted and molded for the Batsuit months prior to filming. One aspect of the Batsuit that Nolan was determined to capture was the cape.

"There are wonderful illustrations of Batman striking iconic poses with his cape flowing, and we wanted to capture that element in our portrayal of the character," says Nolan. "We designed a flowing cloak that's used for concealment and therefore is a matte black fabric that blows and flows as it does in so many of the great graphic novels."

The cowl, Batman's distinctive mask and head covering, also presented a challenge. In the past, the cowl restricted movement so Batman had to turn awkwardly his entire torso instead of just his neck when he wanted to look around.

Panther-like

Hemming, aided by Nolan and sculptor Julian Murray, came up with a cowl thin enough to allow movement and supple enough to prevent it from wrinkling up when Bale turned his head. The result is a sleek, almost panther-like silhouette that allowed natural movement.

Of his costume, Bale says, "The suit gives you this huge neck, like a Mike Tyson neck, which you really rarely see among humans. It's more like a panther's. It gives you this real feral look, as though you're going to pounce on somebody any moment."

Opening worldwide on June 15 including the Philippines, "Batman Begins" is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Entertainment Company.

Campus chic

BOOKWORM: Liberté polo, Italics cardigan, Liberté skirt, B Club shoes. Miss Popular: Fab tank top, Liberté mini skirt, Centropelle pumps, Secosana bag

SET aside your summer wear and say hello to a new school year by sporting the latest back-to-school fashion. From the girlie to the sporty, Robinsons Department Store spells out different campus personalities and offers easy-on-the-budget options to spruce up individual looks:

The bookworm. Someone who works hard for a straight-A average deserves no-nonsense dressing. Shun the dull look and go for soft prim-and-proper pastels like a powder-blue cardigan over a canary-yellow polo and caramel-khaki skirt paired with ballet flats.

ONE of the boys: Jag Thug top, Liberté shorts with belt, RDS visor. Kikay: Liberté shrug and tube top, Unica Hija skirt

Miss Popular. Smart, sassy and confident, you are everybody's friend. Further spread cheer and goodwill by trying on bright-colored tank top over a mini skirt. Contrasting pumps and a colored bag complete the look.

The cheerleader. Many admire you not only for your outstanding leadership qualities but also for your sense of style. Stash away your sweatsuits some time and gear up with simple yet chic plain tank top, mini pleated skirt and sneakers.

The rebel musician. You play the drums when everyone else is into piano, and while your friends hum to the latest pop tune, you'd rather croon a rockin' radical hit. To suit your unconventional style, a sleeveless funky tee and hip-hugger denims accessorized with a studded black belt will surely boost your avant-garde look.

One of the boys. You're sporty, cool and always on the go—the campus athlete who can blend in with everyone. In addition to your scores of jerseys, try a thug top, drop-waisted cargo pants or khaki belted shorts and a dark sun visor to highlight your versatility and add flair.

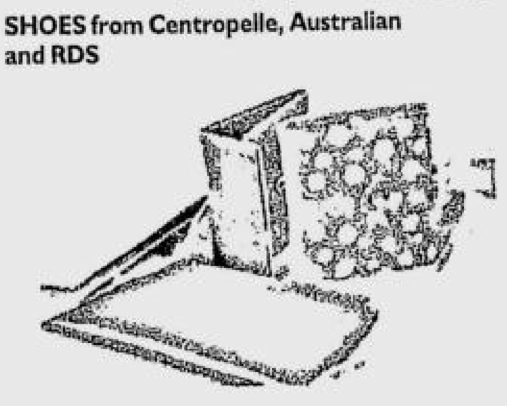
The campus *kikay*. School for you is another big venue where you can make your own fashion "fave-rave." A shrug and tube top or an off-shoulder, boat-necked blouse over a flower-bedecked skirt will complement your come-hither dangling earrings, girlie bangles and other accessories. Don't forget to lug your embellished schoolbag and *kikay* kit.

It's time to check out the fashion fundamentals, trendy notebooks, umbrellas, elegant school shoes, wallets, water flasks, bags and other back-to-school basics at RDS.

Visit the nearest Robinsons Department Stores in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall-Shaw, Metropolis and Festival Malls-Alabang and Nepo Mall-Pampanga or log on to www.rds.com.ph

CHEERLEADER: Liberté tank top, Mint Girl skirt, RDS sneakers. Rebel Musician: MYX top, Liberté jeans, Donna Lyssa belt

SHOES from Centropelle, Australian and RDS



WALLETS from Cosé and Julia

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See flyers for details. Promo period is from May 18 - December 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1342, Series of 2005

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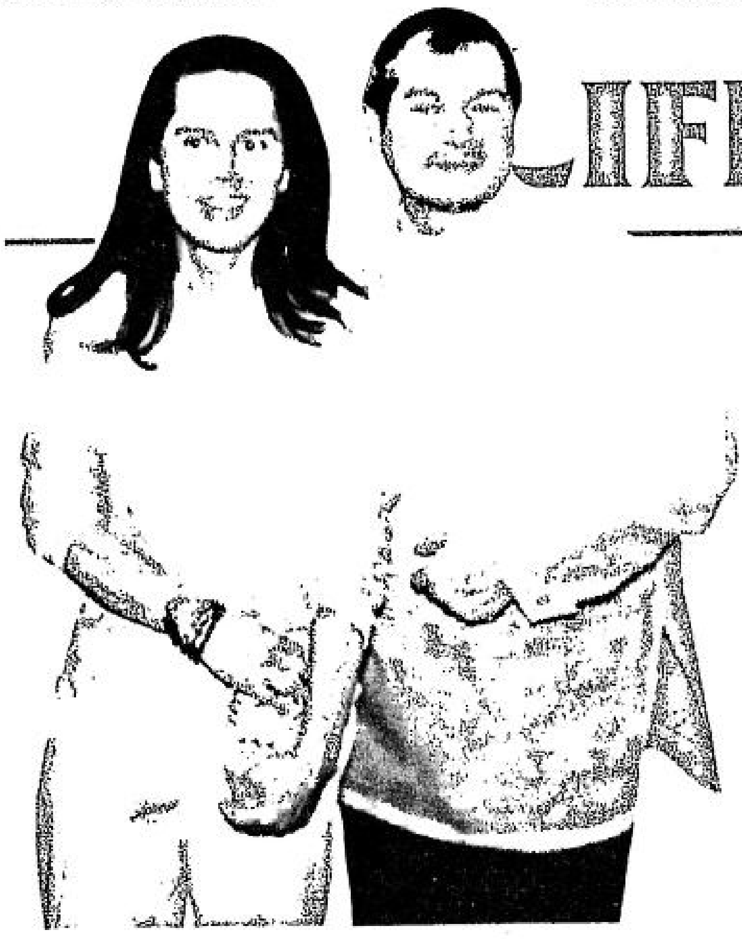
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Slabsters



Though he came from the music industry, Richard Tann helped the fashion industry for over two decades

SO LONG, Richard. Shown, in denims (above), with designer Inno Sotto, his long-time companion; (at left) the pair in a more recent photo

The wind beneath Inno's wings

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I NEVER thought I'd see the day **Inno Sotto** would mark his birthday right beside the coffin of his long-time companion **Richard Tann**. Last Saturday, at the stroke of midnight, we did witness just that. Inno greeted Sunday, his birthday, in a chapel at Santuario de San Antonio where Richard's remains lay.

Richard had died earlier that day of heart attack, as he was being prepared for a triple bypass. He was quite young at 51; his spirit even younger. He was meaning to do so many things yet.

In the chapel, Inno sat in a corner, his furry dog Hugo stationed at his feet. Hugo was Richard's gift to Inno nine years ago; he had been the pair's constant companion at home. As his friends began to sing "happy birthday" in the softest tone—never had I heard such a greeting take on a mournful sound—Inno could only fall in the embrace of bosom friend **Sam Eduque** and his longtime "yaya." Sam and the "yaya" walked Inno to the coffin where he muttered the few words he could summon, only for Richard to hear, words delivered in tears.

When he was calmer, Inno spoke haltingly about how Richard had been the anchor in his life, including his career. "He's the wind beneath my wings," he said articulately even if his face was so vague in his grief.

At that moment, there were no dry eyes in the room. Another close friend and Inno's muse, **Margarita Fores**, couldn't stop crying. Margarita, Sam, **Marietta Santos**, **Michael Salientes**, and **Josine Elizalde** were among the close friends who showed up at the chapel soon after Richard's body was brought there for the long wake ahead.

Potent partnership

Inno Sotto, still the country's most sought-after fashion designer, and Richard Tann, his business manager, show producer and soulmate, had the most potent partnership in the fashion industry. It spanned 27 years. While Richard became known as the popular member of the '70s iconic band Circus and one of the country's balladeers, he devoted more than the past two decades to the fashion industry, not only as the manager and producer of Inno's milestone shows but also as the organizer of fashion shows that rallied the entire trade.

Indeed the local fashion industry owes Richard.

It was not in show biz or in music alone that he paid his dues, it was also in fashion. Few people know that in the '80s, when Inno took a break from fashion design and practically became invisible except to a few, Inno acted as "manager" to Richard's singing career. I remember visiting the pair at a café in Makati where Richard would draw the evening crowd. It was then that Inno's career took the back seat to Richard's.

However, as the '90s dawned, Inno snapped out of his hiatus and burst back onto the fashion scene in a big way. It was Richard

THE WIND/ D2

Remembering Richard Tann

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

He never stopped promoting Philippine fashion, and I hope someone picks up where he left off

MOST people know Richard Tann as a singer, composer and lyricist. He was, after all, a member of the legendary '70s group Circus band. We in the fashion industry, however, knew Richard as more than all that. He was also the potent force behind a number of successful fashion shows and productions that were truly world-class.

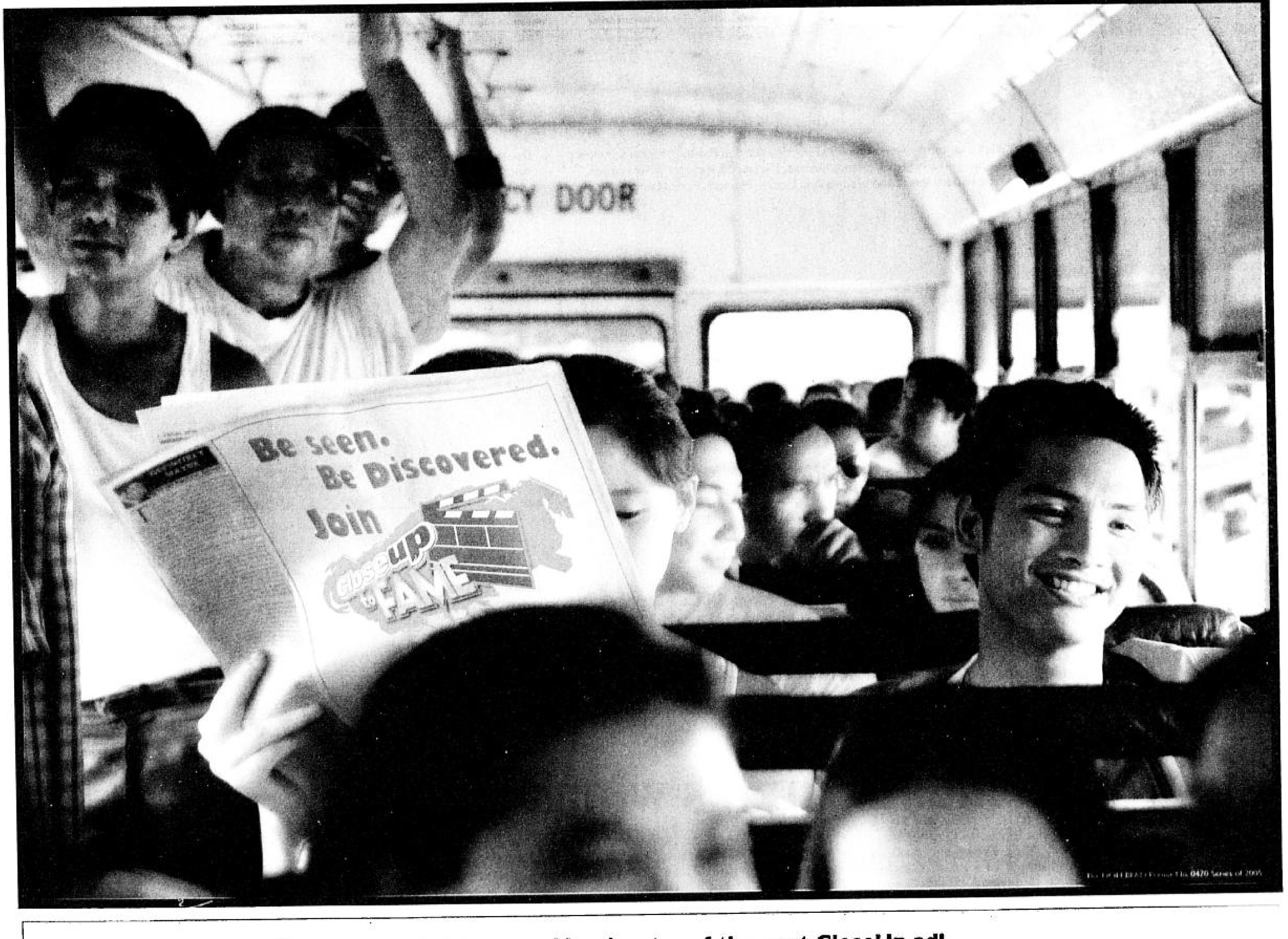
When directo r Ariel Lozada informed me of his demise several days ago, I was in shock and then in tears. I don't think Richard even knew he was a source of inspiration during my years as a model. Because of his dedication to his craft, he challenged me and my peers to strive for excellence, if not perfection, at all times. He also taught us to take pride in our work.

In fact, some of the highlights of my career were projects co-headed by Richard. There were the Inno Sotto and Pepito Albert shows featured in Elsa Klench's Style in CNN. Then the momentous Asean Design Shows held here in Manila and participated in by designers and models from all over Asia. And of course the Inno Sotto show in Paris, which made me truly proud to be Filipino. To this day, I can still hear Richard's enchanting version of "Dalagang Filipina," which was like our anthem during those stellar years.

These are but a few of Richard's many achievements in the fashion industry. Last I heard, he was working on reviving Fashion Watch, a series of fashion shows featuring local designers. He never stopped promoting and uplifting the Philippine fashion scene, and I hope someone takes up the torch that he carried.

As a way of showing our heartfelt gratitude for all that

REMEMBERING/ D2



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b. Any Colored ID Picture, preferably 2" x 2"
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June 4-5
SM Cebu - Atrium Lower Ground
SM Davao - Entertainment Plaza Second Level
Naga - Plaza Quezon

ANOTHER incomparable project was the India trip featuring designers Inno Sotto, Iya Arnovit, Gerry Katigbak and Cesar Gaupo. Richard, the author and the group pose for posterity in front of Taj Majal.

RICHARD with the author and stylist Michael Salientes during the Inno Sotto fashion show in Paris 10 years ago. The event made everyone truly proud to be Filipino.

Remembering Richard Tann

From page D1

he has done, here is a little tribute from models he had worked with through the years:

I learned a lot working as a model for Richard. Because of Fashion Watch, we got used to the fast-paced, dynamic and exciting world of fashion. Despite the early call time, Richard was always prepared, put-together and full of energy. He was so good at multitasking, even physically raising and lowering the curtains himself before and after the show, with no complaints. I will always be grateful for his friendship, for his impressive voice (literally and figuratively), for our recent reunion in Nicotina, for the endless exchange of stories and for always taking care of Inno.—**Romina Urra-Gonzalez**

Richard Tann was one of the first few people who believed in me, and I will remember that forever.—**Joan Bitagcol**

I had the privilege of working with Richard through Inno's shows. He never failed to be there to meticulously guide and train the models. My last conversation with him was memorable. Over many cups of coffee, we talked about my son Enzo and motherhood. He not only listened with interest but also laughed over the many anecdotes I shared. He listened like a father. I will miss him so much.—**Rissa Samson**

Richard always struck me as a responsible father figure, leader, mover and planner. I was always in awe of him. Yet, I was fortunate enough to see his tender side. It was during our trip to Paris for Inno's show. I fainted right before the gala night and I was scared he would scold me for not eating properly. But on the contrary, he came backstage to check on me and gave me a box of chocolates to make me feel better. I was so touched. That was when I knew he was a tender, caring person.—**Lala Flores-Magpantay**

He was a good and gentle person. He went out of his way to make others feel welcome. During my first show with Inno, he put me at ease by giving me his last piece of hopia.—**Izza Gonzales-Agana**

Our Inno shows wouldn't be complete without him. He was a great singer and a good person who could always provide words of inspiration.—**Marilen Espino-Mendoza**

Richard Tann was a man of great achievement in the fashion industry. He contributed much to the industry's success as a producer, mentor and friend.—**Ana Lloren**

AT A RECENT Fashion Watch reunion at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Richard strikes a pose with designers Inno Sotto, Dennis Lustico, Joji Lloren, director Ariel Lozada, makeup artist Patrick Rosas and models Ana Lloren, Maricris Perez-Lontok, Wilma Doesnt, Amanda Sto. Domingo, Grace Molina, Romina Urra-Gonzalez, Baba Parma, Jo Ann Bitagcol, Eazel Don-Franzitch and Lotis Villa.

GERRY Katigbak, Jo Ann Bitagcol, Richard, Eazel Don-Franzitch, Ana Lloren and Rachel Soriano share a laugh after a long day's work in New Delhi.

I'm one of the lucky people who got the chance to know Richard. It started during a dinner reunion of models from my batch. Since my group had a production company, we agreed to revive Fashion Watch. I always told him I was not a formal type of person, and he would always say he liked my candidness and that he could handle it. The last time I talked to him was last Friday, the night before he died. I called him for some advice and he said, "I'll give you all the papers you need, and it's up to you to expand it." Up to now *di ako makapunta sa kanya.* I can't believe he's gone.—**Wilma Doesnt**

I am eternally grateful to Richard for sharing with us the knowledge and strength to stay in the business. For making us believe in ourselves and the fact that we could do much more. He was a good business partner, a great mentor, an amazing person with impeccable taste and talent. Through his simplicity, we saw contentment. To many of us, the magnitude of his loss is unimaginable. He made a mark in all our hearts by leaving little trinkets of knowledge and virtue. We will surely miss him.—**Grace Molina**

During one of Inno's shows, we were all singing backstage while having our makeup done. I remember Richard singing along with us and saying we were not only good models but potential singers, too—to our delight... The last time I saw him was last November when we dined in Nicotina. He asked me to jam with the band playing that night, and I did. We had so much fun as we reminisced about all the shows we did for Inno.—**Patty Betita**

Honestly, I had a big crush on him the first time I met him. He was really famous then as a singer and I was a big fan. I still am...—**Annette Coronel**

Richard Tann was a very kind man. He was also one of the icons of true talent and style in the local music world. His passing is a great loss to us Filipinos.—**Marina Benipayo**

To me, Richard was a man with a big heart. I can still vividly remember our Sunday meetings and workshops. Richard was one of the people who molded me. His being a perfectionist and his passion for his craft gave everyone of us inspiration and strength to improve our craft as well. He always had nice things to say when we did good and constructive criticism to mold us into better models and people. I will always remember his happy disposition and soothing voice...—**Georgette Nepomuceno-Peña**

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

The wind beneath Inno's wings

From page D1

producing and directing Inno's comeback collections which catapulted Inno back to the top of the heap. "Inno Sotto 15 years" was a landmark show in Philippine fashion. From thereon, the pair was unstoppable.

Richard would organize fashion shows not only for Inno, but also for all Manila designers, in his fashion luncheon series called Fashion Watch at Manila Hotel. It was that series that kept Philippine fashion alive and competitive through the years.

Impressive

Given his experience as fashion show producer, Richard, with Inno, was tapped by the then First Lady **Ming Ramos** and Cabinet Ladies in the Ramos administration to produce Asean Design Show, which featured the collections of fashion designers from the Asean. The participation was impressive; even Brunei, which hardly had a fashion industry in the early '90s, sent representatives.

The Asean Design was seminal in the promotion of the region's fashion industry. It came ahead of the fashion weeks of other countries in the region that today draw regular foreign buyers. Unlike today's fashion weeks in various countries which are solely commercial, the Asean Design managed to showcase the aesthetics and artistry of the Asean designers. CNN's **Elsa Klensch** flew here to cover it twice, with Richard and Michael tour-guiding her. Since then Elsa has become a fan of Inno and a friend of the pair.

Richard also directed the highly acclaimed Inno Sotto collection in Paris in the mid-'90s which drew the French people's attention to Philippine design. The show's soundtrack—layered-on instrumental rendition of *kundiman*—won the rave of the French audience. It was created by Richard just for the show.

In this way did Richard help the fashion industry. He struggled along with it. If he was an anchor to Inno's career, he was an "enabler" to the industry, by being the organizer.

It's striking how, while he was an artist and a musician, Richard also had fully utilized the other side of his brain — managing, organizing, being an entrepreneur.

On a personal level, he had also been that way with the other fashion designers. When the popular fashion designer **Caloy Badidoy** was slain in his pad, a floor above Inno's at their Malate apartment, it was Richard who was first on the scene and tried to restore sanity in a scene of panic. That morning he was the chief consoler—the rock—to Caloy's designer friends.

Solitude

This week, these friends took their turn to be the rock to Inno. They all came to console him-I was with **Rusty Lopez, Larrie Silva, Tonichi Nocom, Rhett Eala** that first night. Publicist **Susan Joven**, Inno's loyal friend, was also around, and so were **Leica Carpo, Juan Miguel Ongsiako, Carlo Tadiar, Carmina Sanchez, Doris Ho** who was organizing yet another fashion show series with Richard, **Francis and Maryann Lumen, Irene and Greggy Araneta, Fernando and Kit Zobel.**

Philip Cu-unjieng could only describe to me how Inno spent the early hours of the wake in solitude, before the crowd turned up. He simply walked Hugo around and around the chapel courtyard, as if trying to take in the reality which, at that moment, seemed most unreal in its tragedy.

That afternoon in the chapel must have been the saddest sunset in Inno's life.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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from June 3-22, 2005

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3123, series of 2005

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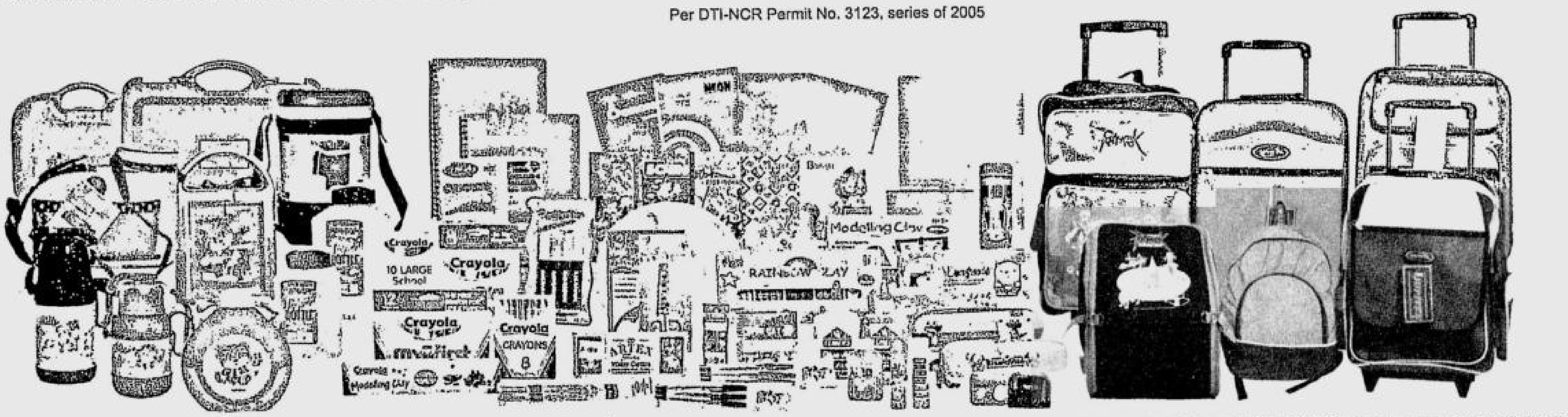
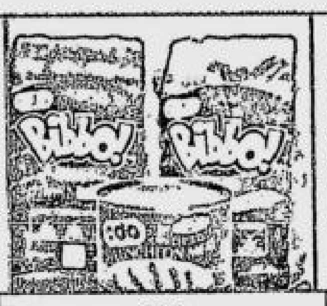
• Store hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

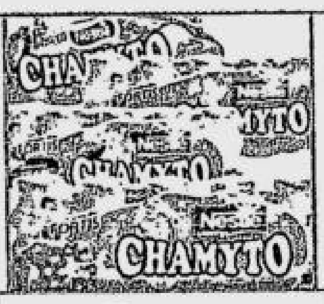


Koko Krunch
Breakfast Cereal
Milo Balls
Breakfast Cereal
20g ₱8.20/bx 170g ₱64.70/box
330g ₱106.95/box

Purefoods
Tender Juicy Cocktail
1k ₱151.30/bag
Corned Beef 150g ₱27.60/can



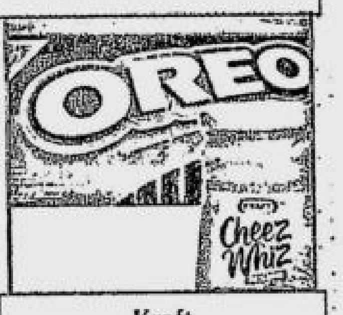
CDO
Bibbo Hotdog Regular 1k ₱137.75/bag
Cocktail 1k ₱141.60/bag
Chinese Luncheon Meat 165g ₱19.35/can



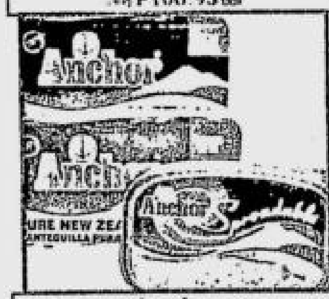
Chamyto
(All Flavors)
5/80ml ₱32.25/pk

Dumex
1 Plus Honey, Choco
1.6k ₱646.25/can
3 Plus Honey, Choco
1.6k ₱609.25/can

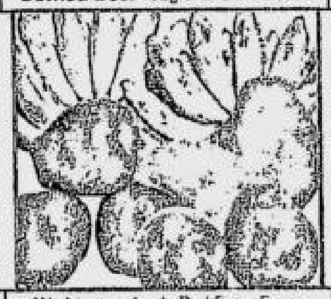
Cook Best Oil
Plastic 4l ₱209.70/jug
Pouch 175ml ₱10.50/sup
Pouch 315g ₱20.70/sup



Kraft
Cheez Whiz Plain 250g ₱44.50/bot
Oreo
Grocery Cookies 300g ₱46.30/box

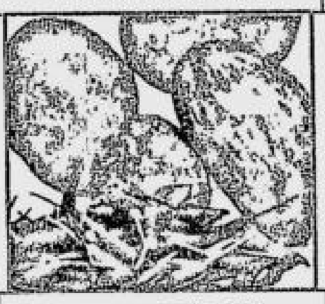


Anchor
Butter Salted-Unsalted
227g ₱50.95/ea
Spreadable
200g ₱46.20/ea



Washington Apple Red Extra Fancy
₱73.50/kg
Latundan, Lacatan ₱24.20/kg
Indian Mango ₱8.40/kg
Solo Papaya ₱15.75/kg

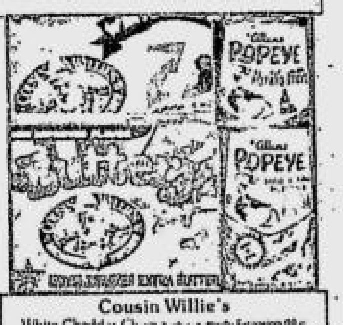
Womboc ₱16.80/kg
Cabbage ₱18.90/kg
Hot Pepper ₱29.95/kg



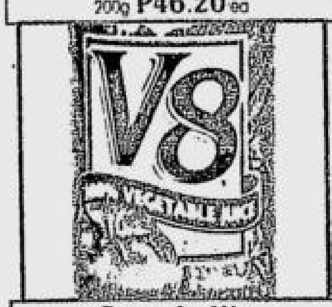
Sili Labuyo ₱73.50/kg
Camote ₱10.50/kg
Singkamas ₱10.50/kg

Zi Shan
Whole Lychees 567g ₱29.00/can
Falcon's Valley
Lychees 565g ₱28.50/can

Colman's
Mustard 454g ₱421.00/can
Mint Sauce 250g ₱161.00/bot
Tartar Sauce 250g ₱126.00/bot



Cousin Willie's
White Cheddar Cheese [illegible] 99g
₱75.50/bag
Popeye
Shoestring Potato Stick 85g ₱21.25/pk
Ketchup Potato Stick [illegible] ₱22.25/pk



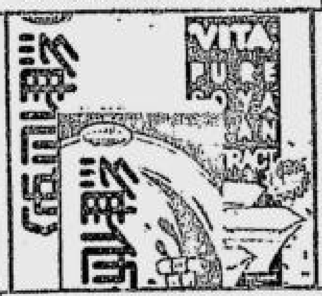
Campbell's
V-8 Vegetable Juice 326g
₱34.60/can
Spicy Hot 156g ₱24.25/can

Nabisco
Chips Ahoy Chewy 456g ₱145.50/pk
Oreo Choco Fudge Covered 246g ₱155.50/pk
Kraft
Easy Cheese Cheddar, Sharp Cheddar
Bacon [illegible] ₱160.50/[illegible]

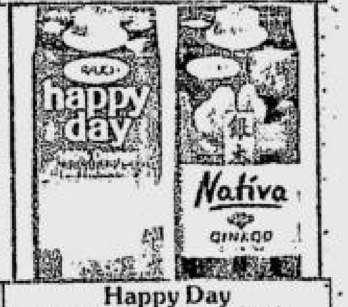
Welch's
Sparkling Juice Cranberry,
Red Grape, White Grape
762ml ₱130.50/bot

Bourbon Cookies
Aurora, Butter, Choco & Coffee,
Choco Chips 152g ₱70.50/box

French's
Potato Sticks BBQ, Cheezy Cheddar
198g ₱66.50/pk
Original 42g ₱18.50/pk
198g ₱66.50/pk 454g ₱148.50/pk

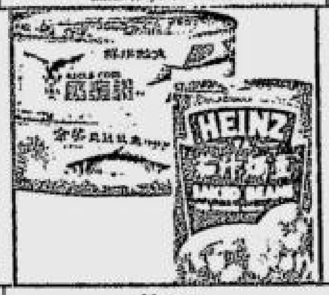


Vitasoy
Pure Soya Bean Extract 1l ₱54.00/box
Soya Bean Milk 1l ₱56.00/box
Calci-Plus High Calcium, Melon Soya Milk
250ml ₱17.00/tetra

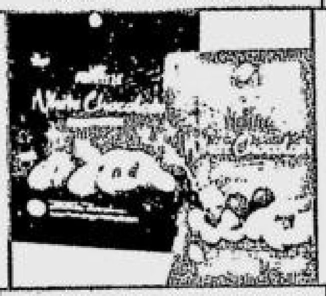


Happy Day
Orange Day Nit Frutchfleisch
1l ₱64.75/tetra
Rauch Nativa
Ginkgo Green Tea 1l ₱55.25/tetra

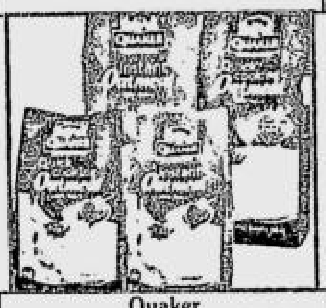
Nissin HK
Cup Noodles Beef, Chicken,
Mushroom, Prawn Spicy Beef, Crab
75g ₱55.50/cup



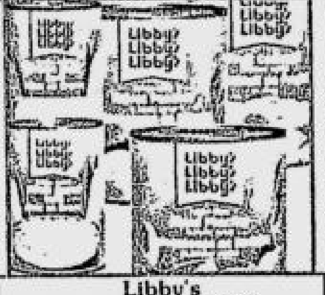
Heinz
Baked Beans 4.5g ₱71.50/bot
Eagle Coin
Fried Dace w/ Black Beans 184g ₱53.50/can
Plain 184g ₱55.50/can



Vochelle
White Choco Almond Nut,
Assortment Nut
80g ₱43.25/pk

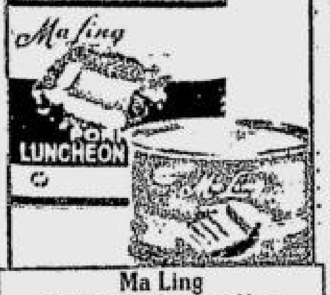


Quaker
Quick Cooking Oats Foil 400g ₱47.40/pk
800g ₱85.25/pk
Instant Cooking Oats Foil 400g ₱49.75/pk
800g ₱89.50/pk

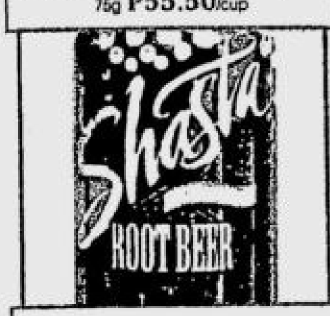


Libby's
Fruit Cocktail 851g ₱59.00/can
Peach Halves, Sliced 822g ₱59.00/can
Whole Kernel Corn 433g ₱25.50/can
Cream Style Corn 426g ₱25.50/can

Mornflakes
Jumbo Oats, Quick Oats
200g ₱19.50/pk
400g ₱35.50/pk 800g ₱61.50/pk

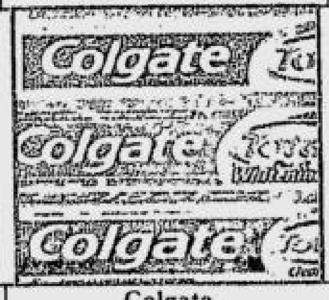


Ma Ling
Premium Pork Luncheon Meat
Round 170g ₱17.50/can
Pork Luncheon Meat
Rectangle 340g ₱34.00/can



Shasta
Rootbeer 360ml ₱15.90/can

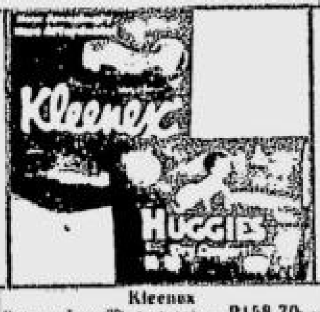
Ariel [illegible] ₱5.50/[illegible] [illegible] Downy [illegible] ₱6.90/[illegible] [illegible] ₱6.90/[illegible] [illegible] ₱8.65/[illegible]
Downy [illegible]
[illegible] ₱36.15/[illegible]
Head & Shoulders Shampoo All Variants [illegible] ₱84.90/[illegible]



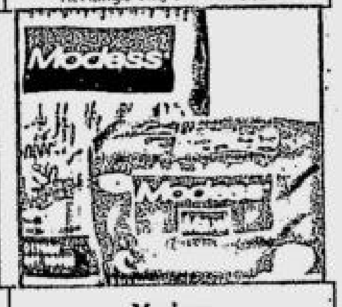
Colgate
Total Plus Whitening Toothpaste
160g ₱63.10/tube 90g ₱36.50/tube
12 Clean Mint Toothpaste
160g ₱63.10/tube 90g ₱36.50/tube

Astring-O-Sol
Freshmint Gold Mouthwash [illegible] ₱46.20/bot
[illegible] ₱78.40/bot [illegible] ₱133.30/bot [illegible] ₱175.90/bot
Ice Mouthwash [illegible] ₱37.30/bot [illegible] ₱62.80/bot
[illegible] ₱112.40/bot
Spearmint [illegible] ₱58.60/bot [illegible] ₱95.00/bot
[illegible] ₱179.50/bot

Trompy
Cologne 250ml ₱78.95/bot
400ml ₱124.10/bot
Shampoo 250ml ₱61.10/bot
400ml ₱82.75/bot



Kleenex
Bathroom Tissue 200 sheets 2 ply [illegible] ₱158.70/bag
Kotex
Fresh Longer & Wider [illegible] ₱40.70/pk
Huggies
Dry Comfort Diaper Medium [illegible] ₱172.95/bag
Large [illegible] ₱108.40/bag



Modess
All Nights Maxi Wings 4s ₱27.10/pk
Singles Cottony Soft
No Wings Odor Control 12s ₱37.00/pk

SUNSHINE Cruz channels 1950s glam in Allegra necklace and earrings in white gold and two rows of pavé with semiprecious stones.

FRANCINE Prieto is a modern-day Marilyn Monroe in Theme necklace, bracelet and earrings in yellow gold and mother-of-pearl sunburst.

TO COMPLEMENT her neo-vintage look, Claudine Barretto chooses Coriandoli necklace and earrings with three rows of yellow gold, pearls and semiprecious stones.

DONNA Cruz is a picture of simplicity in Classica earrings with pearl and three diamonds, and a Lucea watch in white gold.

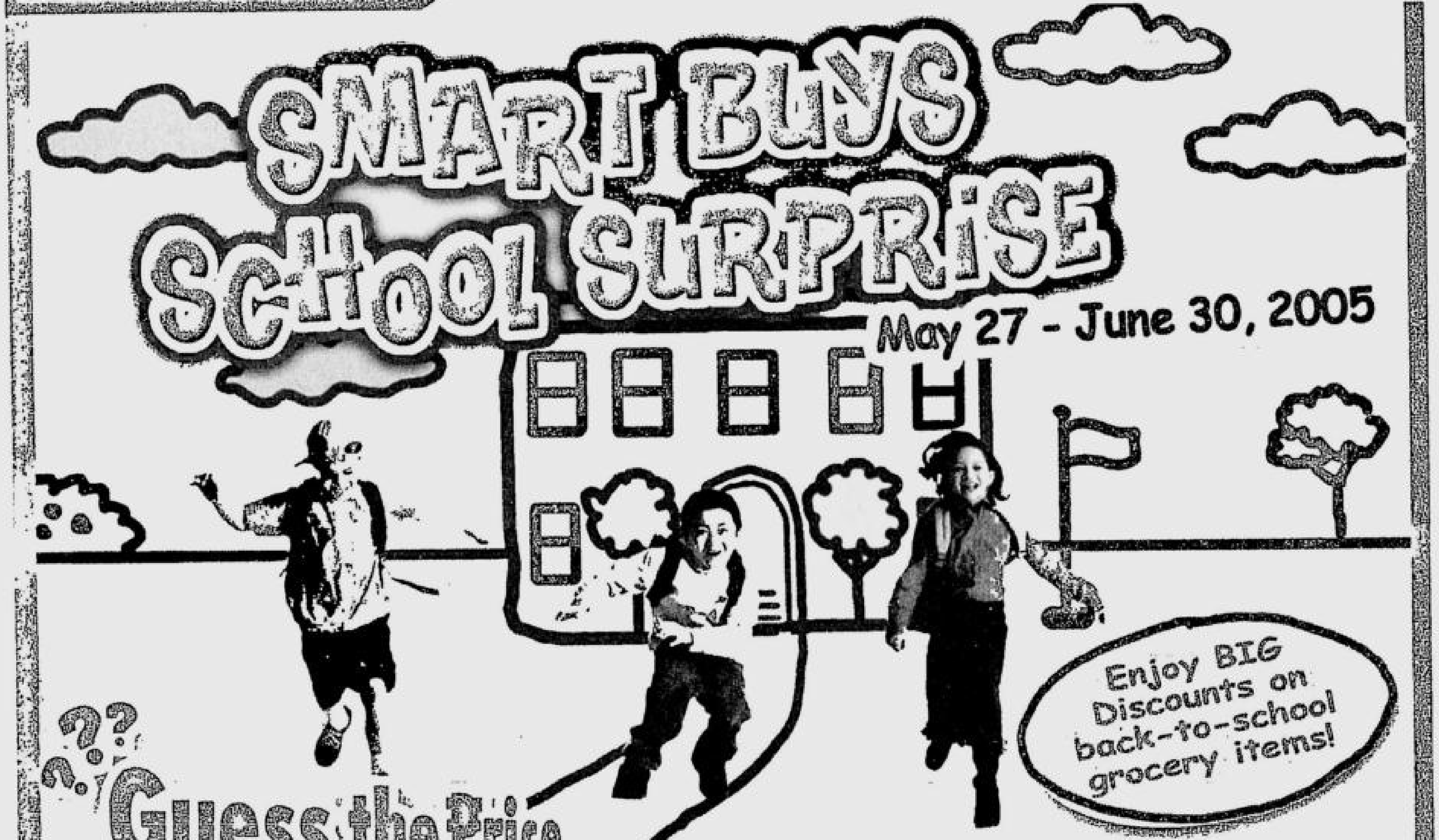
Glittering awards evening

IS THERE a more appropriate occasion to dress up the stars? The Film Academy of the Philippines Luna Awards 2005 gives the answer with sparkling movie stars parading that evening either with understated elegance or maximum glamour. Celebrating the "Golden Age of Philippine Movies," Bulgari, the world-renowned Italian jeweler, added glitter and inspiration to the stars' dramatic and fascinating designer gowns.

Spotted wearing Bulgari jewelry were Cherie Gil, Liezl Martinez, Donna Cruz, Francine Prieto, Sunshine Cruz, Marjorie Barretto, Lani Mercado, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan and Claudine Barretto, who won the Best Actress award for the movie "Milan."

LIEZL Martinez wears Nuvole necklace and earrings in platinum with diamonds.

LANI Mercardo opts for classic Fireworks necklace, bracelet and earrings in yellow-gold pavé.



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Robinsons SUPERCENTER
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May 27 - June 30, 2005

Enjoy BIG Discounts on back-to-school grocery items!

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RAFFLE PROMO

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☐ P8,325.00
☑ P9,451.05
☐ P7,899.75
Pabaon Treats
(1 winner/store)

☑ P6,894.75
☐ P5,555.95
☐ P4,823.00
Study Room Showcase
(1 winner/store)

Over P400,000 worth of Robinsons Gift Certificates at stake!

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- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

See flyers for more details.
Per DTI Permit No. 1406 Series of 2005.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

KIEHL'S comes to Manila /E2

Blow to blondes as brunettes top list

LONDON—The five most beautiful women in the world, at least in the opinion of an upmarket British fashion magazine, all have one thing in common—they're brunettes.

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie tops Harpers and Queen's list of global beauties, compiled by 1,000 experts from the worlds of fashion, arts, the media and, peculiarly, plastic surgery.

Following behind are supermodel Christy Turlington, Queen Rania of Jordan, film director Sofia Coppola and cooking diva Nigella Lawson.

Blondes such as supermodel Kate Moss, "Kill Bill" star Uma Thurman and "Lost in Translation" star Scarlett Johansson are in the top 100, but have been relegated out of the top five.

"We were really surprised when the brunettes came out on top," Harpers and Queen editor Lucy Yeomans said Tuesday.

"But from our panel results, we witnessed a definite shift away from the traditionally deified blonde stereotype. Instead, people with a more unusual and interesting beauty ranked higher." Aishwarya Rai, the Indian actress who played the lead in "Bride and Prejudice," is ninth in the poll of the 100 Most Beautiful Women of Today, which appears in the July issue of Harpers and Queen. *AFP*

ANGELINA Jolie on the opening page of an interview in the July issue of Marie Claire, where she says she "thinks the world" of Brad Pitt—but never slept with him. AP

JORDAN'S Queen Rania Al-Abdullah visits with children and teachers at Centronia in Washington, DC. AFP

CHRISTY Turlington

Red Ribbon

Get To Know Our New Cake

Chocolate curls

Dark chocolate ganache

Cream cheese

Grated dark chocolate

3 layers of chocolate chiffon

Tiramisu Meltdown

We're giving away a free bottle of COKE 1.5 liter when you buy a Tiramisu Meltdown.

Available from May 28 to June 30, 2005

The contour bottle and the dynamic ribbon device are registered trademarks of the Coca-Cola Company 2005.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2805, Series of 2005.

Permit No. AI-402 series of 2005

SHOW ART

SALE

Up to 50% off

Visit LRI's Mid-Year Sale and enjoy as much as 50% off on items from 26 furniture and furnishings showrooms and art galleries.

May 26 - June 6
10am to 7pm Monday to Sunday

POPULAR movie star Jericho Rosales and hip couturier Rhett Eala

YOUNG business entrepreneur Patrick Reyno and Hindy Tantoco

TOP models Phoemela Baranda and Nicolette Bell

L'OREAL luxury division GM Vicky Encarnacion and Jane Kingsu

CARISSA Coscolluela and Olympic equestrienne Toni Leviste

PATRICIA Rodrigo of Khiel's International Development

GANG OF THREE. Metro's Ipe Cruz, Giselle Sityar and Smart's David Nugent

CLOSE PALS. Sultry Wendy Puyat-Hotung, international businessman Jacques Dupasquier and INQUIRER Just Shop's Jenni Epperson

KIEHL'S VP for international development, attractive Catherin Rogerro, with Kiehl's and Shu Uemura brand manager Tina Tinio and architect Chut Cuerva

The long wait for Kiehl's is over

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE LONG wait is over, gals. Cool cult cosmetic brand Kiehl's is finally coming and setting up shop in the Philippines!

Après years of women jetting abroad just to stock up on their star products of Kiehl's, such as the Lip Balm #1, Creme de Corps, Creme With Silk Groom and Blue Astringent Herbal Lotion, the brand, which has been in existence since 1851, will now be available for the trendies of Manille.

A brand with a rich history, Kiehl's was founded as an Old World apothecary in New York City. With a unique and extensive background representing a blend of cosmetic, pharmaceutical, herbal and medicinal knowledge developed through the generations, the brand is going strong and now expanding across the globe with Manille its next stop.

Not just your ordinary traditional cosmetic brand, *palanggas*, Kiehl's store feels more of a local neighborhood hangout than boutiques. No wonder it's the favorite of hot names, including Hollywood A-listers **Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Demi Moore, Ashley Judd, Jake Gyllenhall, Kirsten Dunst, Paris Hilton, Cameron Diaz, Liv Tyler** and even **Oprah Winfrey.**

L'Oreal Philippines recently hosted the international development team of Kiehl's in the Philippines. The dinner and reception was held at the Embassy restaurant. It was hosted by Kiehl's Phils. brilliant brand manager, the vibrant **Tina Tinio.**

Taking good care of the guests of honor—**Catherin Roggero**, who is Kiehl's VP for international development, and **Patricia Rodrigo**, Kiehls international development marketing manager—were L'Oreal Phils. *tres charmant* **David Ennes**, cybersmart **Vicky Encarnacion**, and workasonic **Leica Carpo**, no less.

The rah! rah! team is already working double-time to make it all happen. So, hey, keep tuned in, *palanggas*, for the major arrival of Kiehl's in the coming months!

FRENC
SPRING
MANIL

THE JAZZY Affinity Band entertains everyone with their fantastic music.

BEAUTIES of Balai Taal: Unilever's Mayni Dizon and Jenni Infante with Dove women Barni Alunan Escaler, Monique Villonco, Susan Reyes, Christine Jacob Sandejas, Felicia Atienza, Agot Isidro Sandejas and Jul Dizon

French Spring

The cultural season has begun, dahlings, and the French Embassy, in cooperation with Alliance Français de Manille and Association Française d'Action Artistique, will the French Spring in Manila arts and culture festival, with the generous support of the local private sector and the French business community, *naturellement*!

Needless to say, the French Spring has the wholehearted support of Air France and KLM, Arts Council of Cebu, Asiatype, Axantis, the Ayala group, Bench, Bizu, Delifrance, Les Films du Phoenix, Mandarin Oriental, Peugeot Autofrance Phils. Inc., Rustan Commercial and Marketing Corps., Silk Cocoon, and Wine and Food Society.

Now on its seventh year, the French Spring in Manila celebrates "Unity in Diversity," "a source of exchange, innovation and creativity." After all, dahlings, France is a *tres* strong defender of cultural diversity, *n'est ce pas!* (as in, *di bala!*).

Through the various performances in the program of this year's festival, Filipino and French artists are given new opportunities to discover new modes of expression, interpretations and even new languages.

The 2005 French Spring will present a fab operatic recital, staged in a fantastic cabaret setting by **Helene Delavault**; then a weaving exhibit by **Elodie Brunet**; a gastronomy fair, workshops, dance performances, and concerts. The piece de resistance is any of the three: the Third Manila Jazz Festival, the Fête de la Musique, and the 10th French Film Festival.

Dove treat

At Balai Taal in Tagaytay, girls were treated by Dove to discover the big difference between soap and moisturizing cream bar, *palanggas*.

Why Balai Taal?

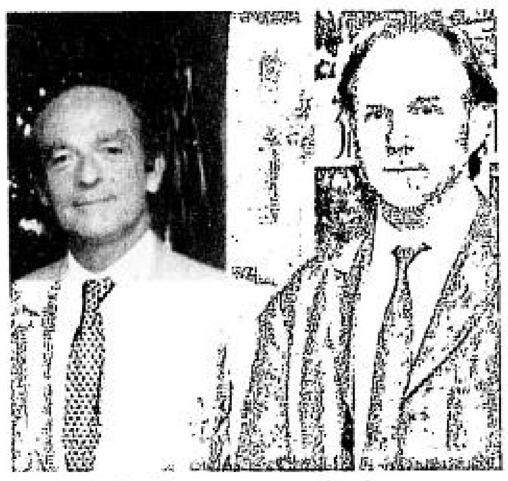
Dove believes in real beauty and everything that is naturally beautiful. A true believer in going back to the basics beauty routine. Hence a mini forest setting with cascading waterfalls and age-old trees.

Seven women were chosen to represent "timeless and tireless beauty without the usual silver-screen look," according to Dove. They were presented through a photo gallery executed by photo artist **Isa Lorenzo.** In her projection of these Dove users, there were no touch-ups on their faces, dahlings. Isa only used natural lighting, capturing the women's natural beauty!

The gorgeous seven were **Agot Isidro Sandejas, Christine Jacob Sandejas, Jul Dizon, Susan Reyes, Felicia Atienza, Barni Alunan** and Dove muse **Monique Villonco.**

Aprés a brisk walk through Balai Taal's cool, serene environment, the foot-spa demo was a totally awesome relief. The gals' foot spa was conducted with one leg done with soap, the other with Dove. The result—"a smooth and soft-feeling skin with Dove's moisturization, compared to the dry sensation left by soap," explained PR maven **Annie Ringor.**

Get into the swing of Dove, you'll be doing your drying skin a major favor, *palanggas*.

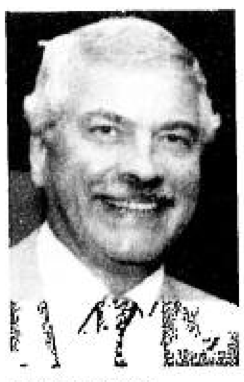


FRANÇOIS Blamont, counselor for cooperation and cultural affairs, and Philippe Salord, cultural attaché

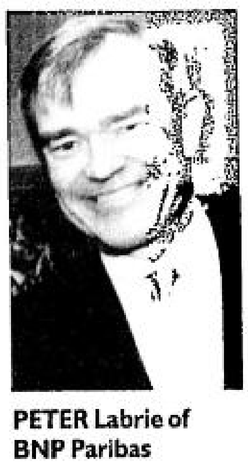
MARTIN Macalintal, audiovisual attaché, and Louis Paul Heussaff of Supply Oilfield Services

ASIATYPE's Philippe Gauthier

JACQUES Branellec of Jewelmer



JEFFREY Neil Attwood of Total Phils.



PETER Labrie of BNP Paribas

MY lovable *amiga*, Bambi Harper

ADORABLE Ambassador Renée Veyret smiles as she plays the guitar, all for French Spring in Manila 2005.

GORGEOUS Alunan sisters. Young Dove gals Katrina and Alexi

BEAUTIFUL Angel Aquino

WOMAN of all seasons Carmita Francisco

Malls' new image models known June 4

GOINGS ON

FOURTEEN finalists (eight males and six females) will vie for the Star Model Quest 2005 title at 6 p.m., June 4, at 4/L, Trade Hall of Metropolis Star Alabang in Muntinlupa City. Winners will receive cash prizes, trophies, gift certificates, scholarships from AMA Computer Learning Center-Mandaluyong branch plus endorsement projects for the Star Group of Malls. SMQ is held annually to select official image models of the Star Group composed of Metropolis Star Alabang, Starmall-Edsa and Starmall-Las Piñas. Admission is free. Call 7181886, 8503845 or 8725249.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park presents "Kalikasan, Sining at Kultura," featuring Teatro Kalayaan, Ang Nuno Dance Troupe, Ars Noveau and ARPS Rondalla at 5 p.m., June 5, at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila.

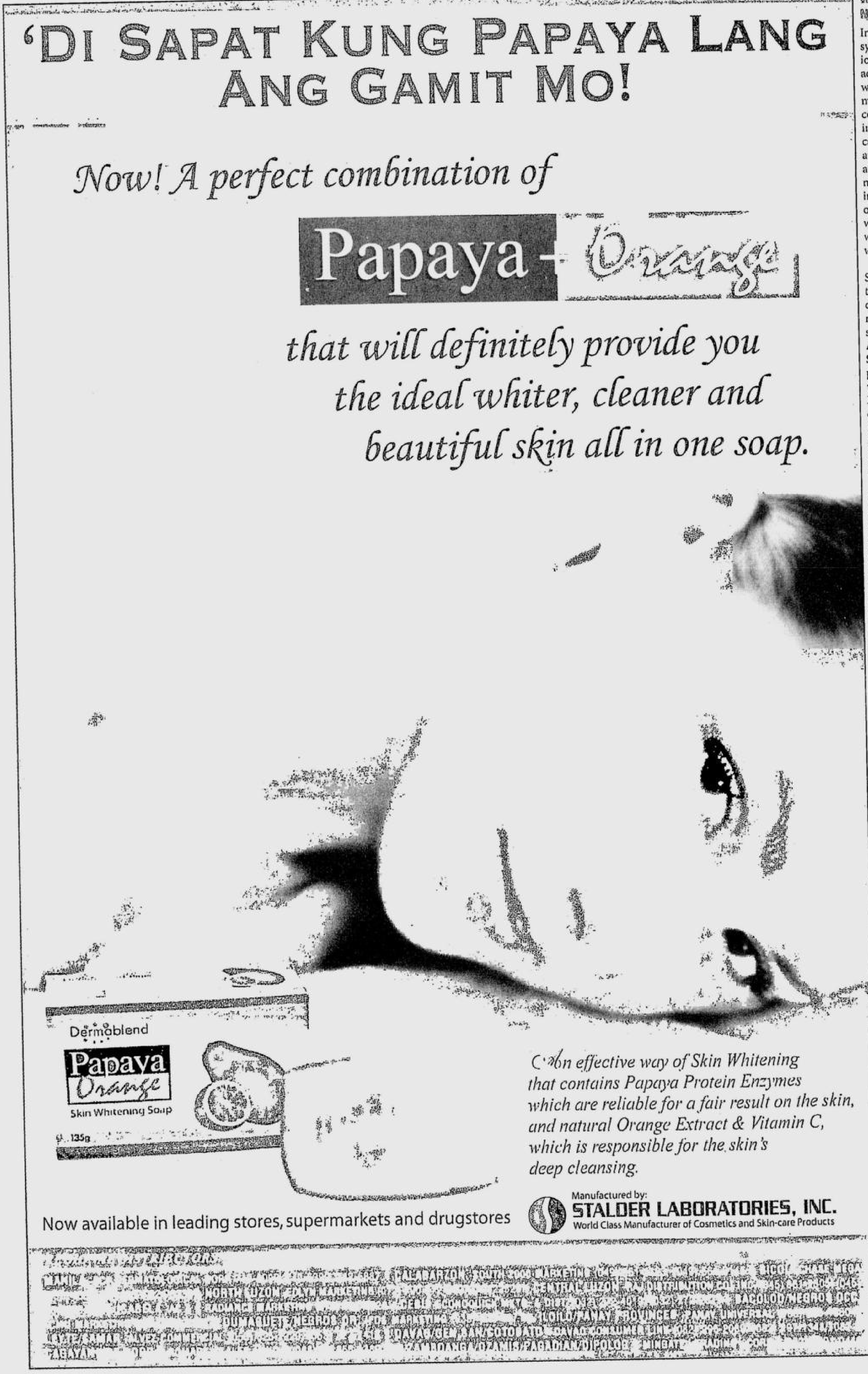
COMPETITION. Rap music enthusiasts are invited to join Starmall's first mall-based rapping competition. "Rappenings at the Mall" is open to rap groups composed of three to five members aged 16 years old and above. Auditions are held at 4 p.m., Mondays, at 2/L, activity area of Starmall Edsa. Elimination rounds will be held every Thursday at the same venue. Registration forms are available for free at the Starmall Marketing Department. Call 7244992 or visit www.starmall.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) will hold a photography seminar for kids aged 7-12 on June 13-15 at the Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8435341 or 8137420. FPPF is at 7/F, Comfoods Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

FOOD SEMINAR. MB&G/PROACTIVE is now accepting reservations for the Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop, 1-5 p.m., June 13-17, at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Call 6871787 or 0915-4315375.

COMPETITION. Professional baristi are invited to compete in the Philippine Barista Cup 2005 at the 3rd Coffee, Tea and Specialty Beverage Trade Show on July 7-9, at Megatrade Hall 1, 5/L, Megamall B. Registration forms are available at Primetrade Asia Inc., 5/F, Accelerando Bldg., 395 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air, Makati. Deadline for submission of entries is on June 10. Call 8960682 or 8960661.

RODOLFO Manabat's winning entry, "Penitence," taken on Bam Ban Bridge in Pangasinan last Good Friday, won first prize in the recently held "Mahal na Araw" photo contest sponsored by YKL Color Lab., exclusive distributor of Fujifilm in the Philippines. The awarding is set tomorrow, 2 p.m., at the Veterans Office, Arroceros Street, Manila. The 47 photos included in the final judging will be on exhibit at Fuji Digital Imaging at G/F, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.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WHITENING WITH PAPAYA IS NOT ENOUGH...TRY ORANGE

In this era where status symbol is synonymous with white complexion, the need for products to achieve a whiter skin in the fastest way possible emerges. Thus, marketing campaign from a lot of consumer products promises instant result. In the Papaya soap category alone, a lot of players appear to have what it takes to achieve that fine color most Filipinos are not gifted with. Product innovations have been made not only to offer consumers the best way to whiten skin but more focus was given to moisturizing it as well.

Stalder Laboratories, Inc. one of the leading manufacturers of skin care products developed the newest breakthrough in superior skin whitening, the DERMABLEND PAPAYA ORANGE SKIN WHITENING SOAP. This product offers consumer the whitening benefit of Papain Enzyme and the moisturizing effect of Orange. **Dermablend Papaya Orange Skin Whitening Soap** is the only Papaya Soap in the Market with Orange extract and Vitamin C.

Unlike ordinary papaya soaps in the market, **Dermablend Papaya Orange Skin Whitening Soap** uses not just papaya extract but Papain Enzyme. These enzymes have been shown to inhibit the melanin formation to give you a fairer, whiter complexion. It has a proteolytic effect which reduces the signs of premature aging by eliminating dead skin cells and accelerating the formation of new ones.

In addition to Papain Enzyme, **Dermablend Papaya Orange Skin Whitening Soap** contain Sweet Orange, It has been recognized to help a dull, oily complexion, and also balances oil production in dry skin. It tends to increase perspiration, so it helps release or flush out toxins from blemished skin.

Furthermore, it gives you the full benefit of Vitamin C, as an Anti-Oxidant, in soap form. Exposure to sunlight, cigarette smoke, and air pollution, along with your body's everyday activities, cause free radicals to form. Vitamin C is the primary water-soluble antioxidant in the body, disarming free radicals and has been shown not only to reverse sun damage, but also gives your skin a clearer, brighter look.

The ascorbic acid content of orange stimulates the formation of collagen tissue, a form of connective tissue found underneath the skin which keeps it firm, elastic, and youthful. It helps lighten dark spots and skin discoloration caused by the sun. Orange extracts also have astringent properties which helps reduce oil production and shrink enlarged pores, thereby eradicating acne, pimples, and blackhead/whitehead formation.

The unique blend of Papaya and Orange offers you twice the benefits that are not found in ordinary beauty soaps. So if you can enjoy the double beautifying effects of both papaya and orange why limit yourself to your old papaya soap? Try **Dermablend Papaya Orange Skin Whitening Soap** today and start enjoying whiter and clearer skin.

Full and straight look for the Asian woman

VERSACE

FROM journeys around the world, designers from the fashion capitals of London, Paris, Milan and New York have brought back a treasure trove of ideas and styles that gives a new depth and direction to the catwalk.

In collaboration with the Pantene Fashion Team, the designers presented the Spring/Summer 2005 Collection—dubbed the Full and Straight Seasonal Collection. The show presented various interpretations of the "Asian Superluxe woman."

To create the Asian Superluxe woman, top-notch designers Gucci, Versace, Paul Smith, Julian Macdonald, Nicole Farhi, Giles Deacon, Jasper Conran, Luella, Derek Lam, Bottega Veneta, Donna Karan, Michael Kors, and Temperley opted for clothes made of super-luxurious fabric that place premium on luxury, style and seriously good quality.

Big leather handbags and sleek sunglasses go with the Superluxe package.

The 2005 look is eclectic, exciting and exotic, a departure from the buttoned-down primness of the former season

The models wore full and straight hair, which replaces the rebonded or flat and straight look. The full and straight look is sleek, shiny, glossy hair with a full, natural set wave. Hair can also be left long and loose to bounce because "full and straight" hair is not about looking prim; it's a statement of confidence and effortless control.

It is a hair trend that can be achieved by using Pantene Smooth and Silky Shampoo and Conditioner with Amino Pro-V Complex.

For the face, the natural look is the new look.

The eyebrow, thick and heavily defined yet neatly groomed, also makes a comeback this year.

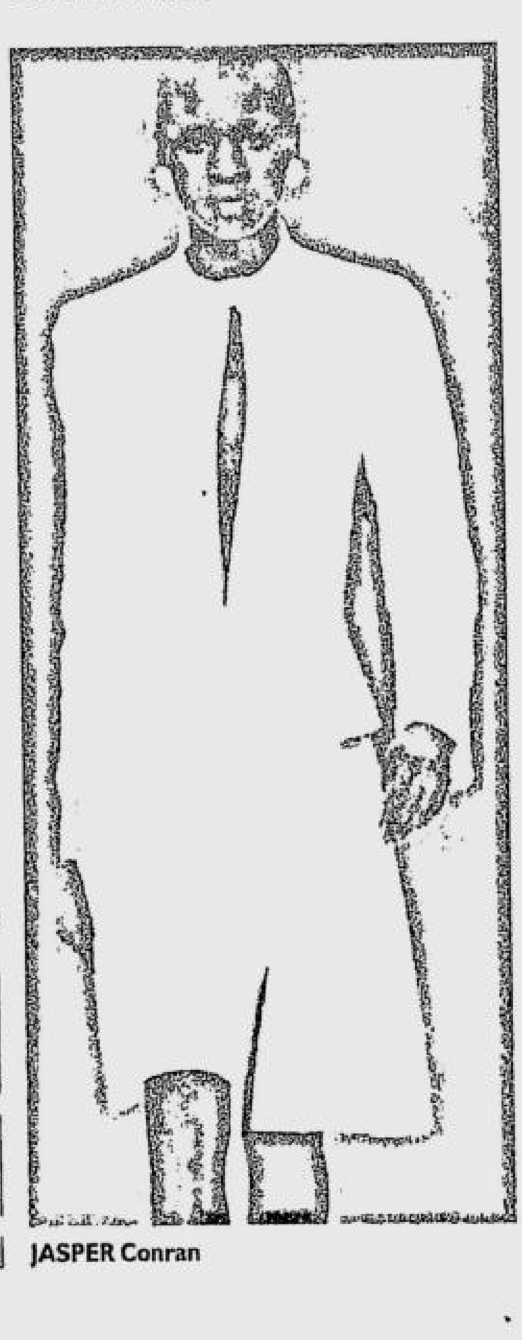
And for those who want to make a powerful statement, this season's lip color is pillar box red.

PAUL Smith

TOMMY Hilfiger

TATANAKA

BOTTEGA Veneta



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A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

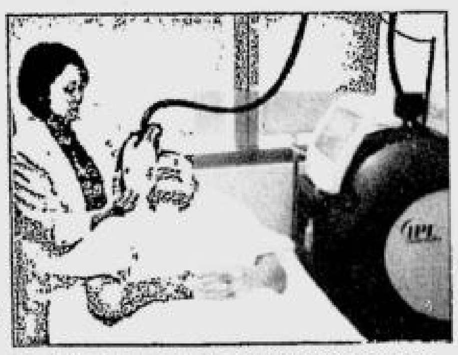
Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

NEW beauty treats from L'Oreal /F4

Age-defying wonder gets a screen test

By Alex Y. Vergara

EVER since Lorna Tolentino underwent Thermage, the actress has been getting compliments from friends and colleagues for her visibly firmer, more radiant face. The latest age-defying machine from the United States, which Lorna first saw on "Oprah Winfrey Show," has been recently introduced in the Philippines by the Belo Medical Group.

Lorna herself noticed a big difference immediately after being treated by Dr. Vicki Belo. Although the actress had managed to look good at 43, she herself admits that her face was starting to reveal her true age before the treatment.

"It was starting to sag. My jaw line wasn't as prominent as it used to be," recalls Lorna.

This may not mean much to us ordinary mortals, but in a profession where looks matter, looking old can drastically limit one's career options. In Lorna's case, all that changed in just an hour.

Lorna didn't consider having a facelift, which she found too radical. Going under the knife also meant being sidelined for a few months, something Lorna, who appears in a weekly show biz talk show, can ill afford.

Besides, Lorna perfectly fits the demographics since Thermage, which emits radio frequencies that zero in on the deeper fatty tissues of the face and tighten them, is primarily aimed at people in their mid 30s to early 50s.

"Thermage is perfect for a younger generation of people who want to look thirtysomething for a longer time," says Belo.

Facelift postponed

In effect, most people can postpone having a facelift well into their 50s because of Thermage. Of course, the treatment's effectiveness will also greatly depend on such factors as the environment and one's genes. As a rule, Belo doesn't recommend Thermage to people in their early 60s, as the body starts to respond very little to the treatment during this stage.

"Prior to Thermage," says Belo, "most of the things we have such as power peels, micro dermabrasions and even lasers couldn't penetrate beyond the surface of the skin and repair the deeper structures."

Even Belo's prized Aurora (a better version of the Intense Pulse Light machine) doesn't have radio frequencies that emit wavelengths as long as that of Thermage. Unlike more conventional skin-rejuvenation treatments, however, Thermage does little to improve the skin's surface. That's why it works best in conjunction with other treatments such as Aptos.

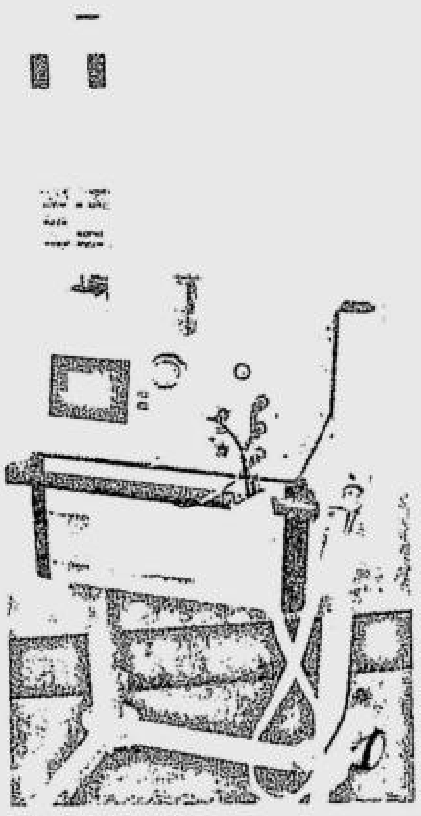
What exactly does Thermage do?

As one gets older, says Belo, the strands or fibers that run through and connect facial muscles to the bone slacken. As muscles become thin, fibers like virtual nails attached to the bone also gets loose.

The visible effects are sagging cheeks, the jaw lines becoming less

AGE-DEFYING/ F2

Thermage emits radio frequencies that zero in on deeper fatty tissues of the face and tighten them



RAGE-AGAINST-AGE machine Thermage, a product of American technology, gets a close-up.

ACTRESS Lorna Tolentino and doctor to the stars Vicki Belo

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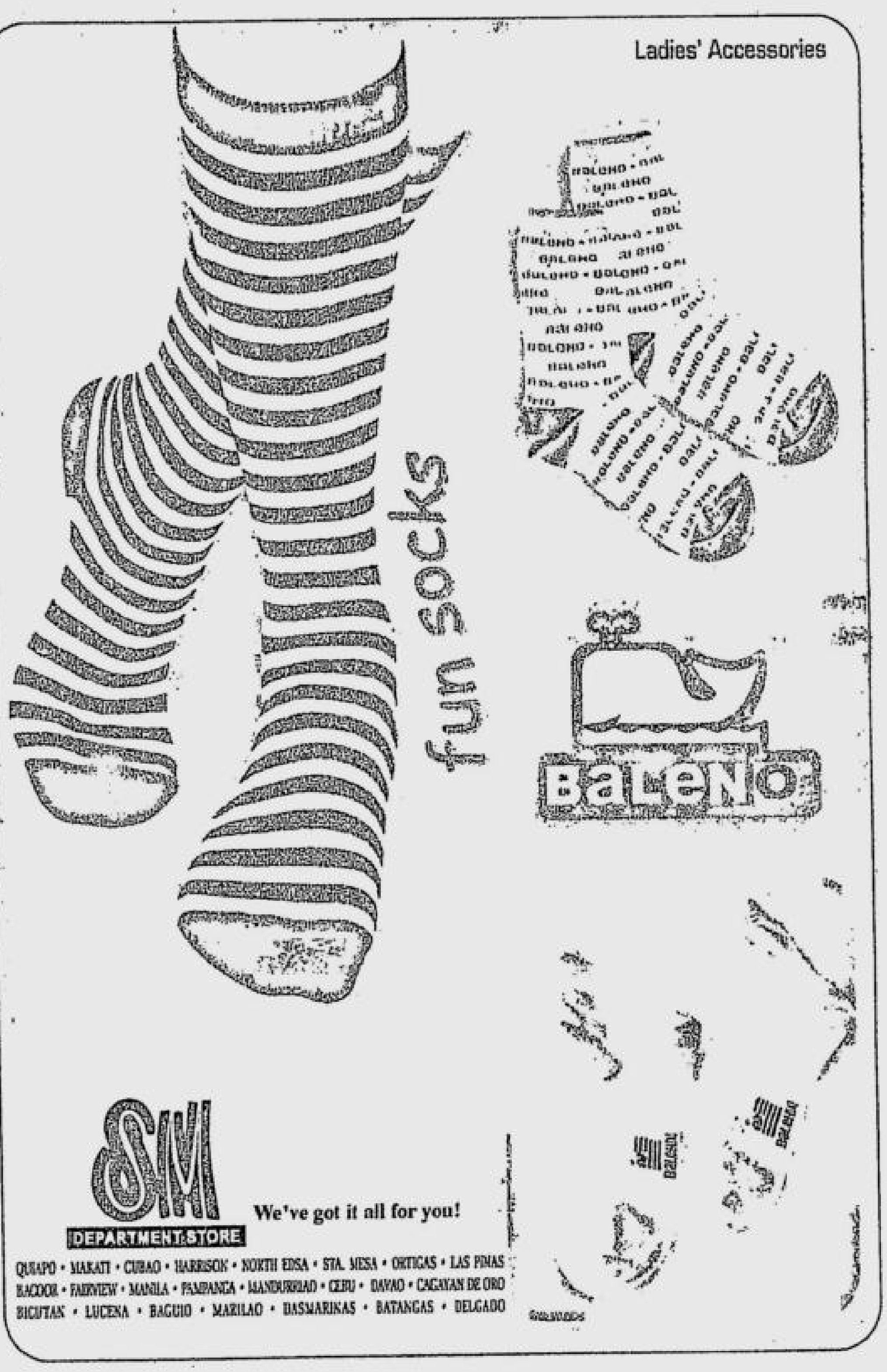

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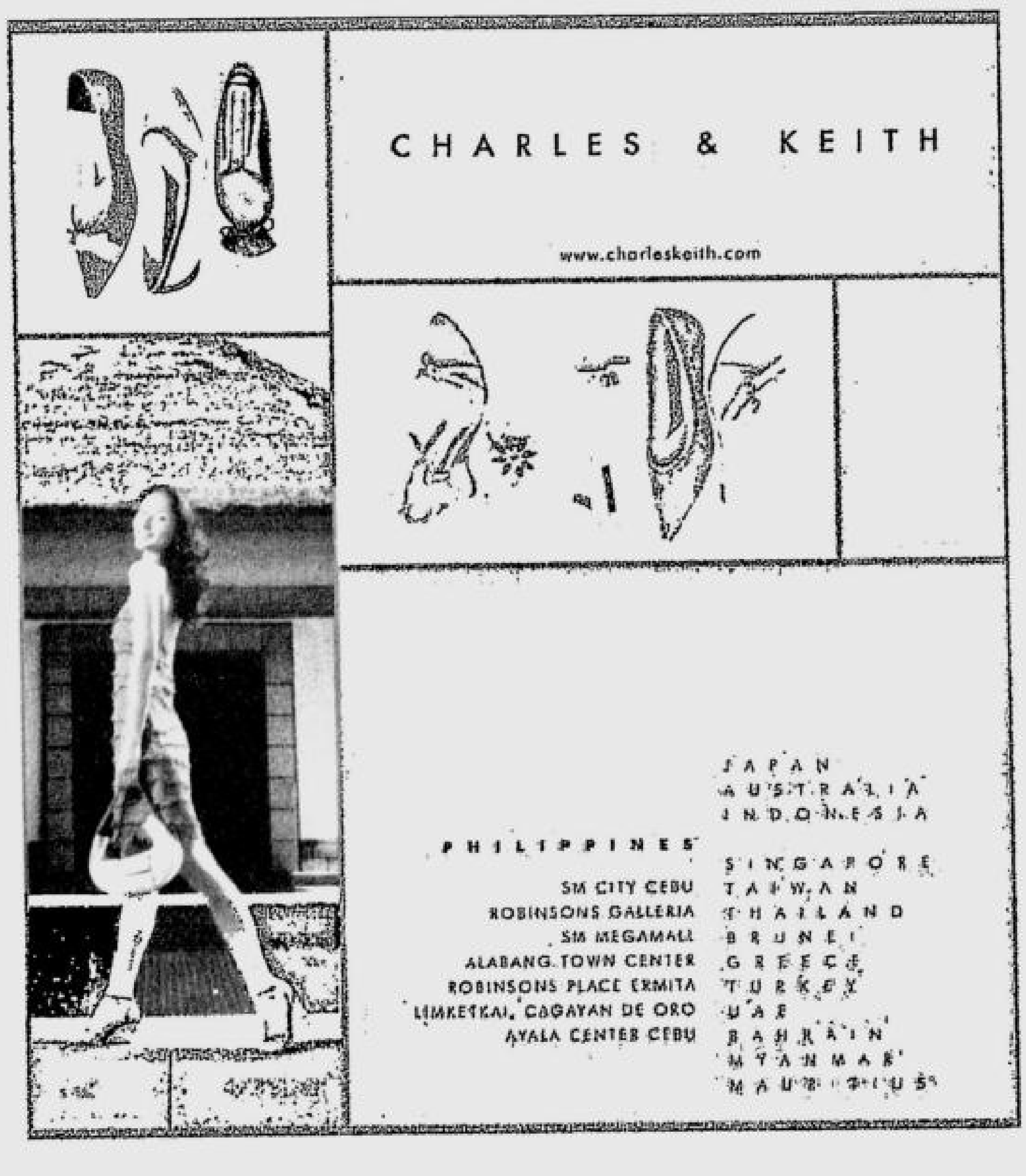

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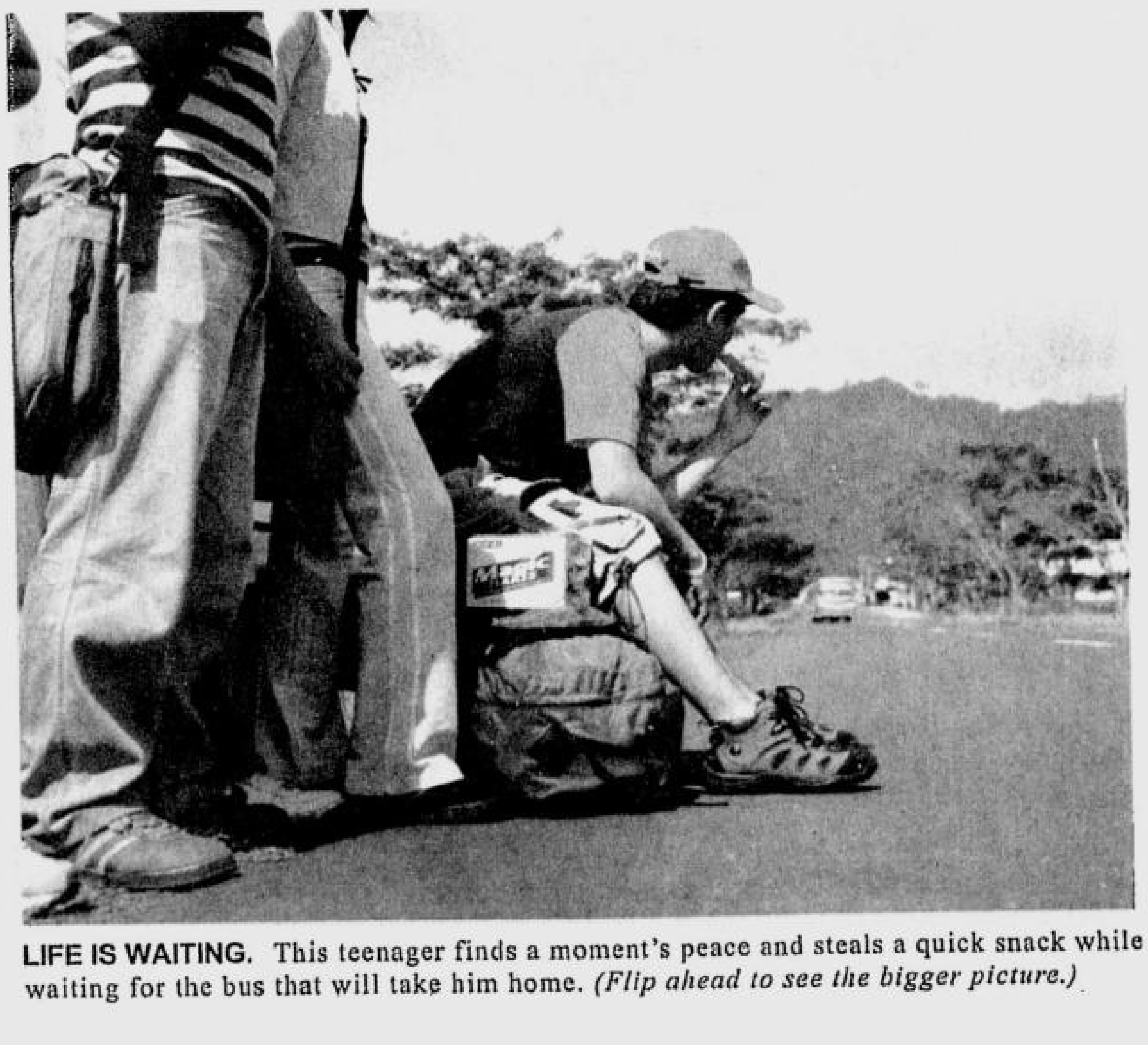
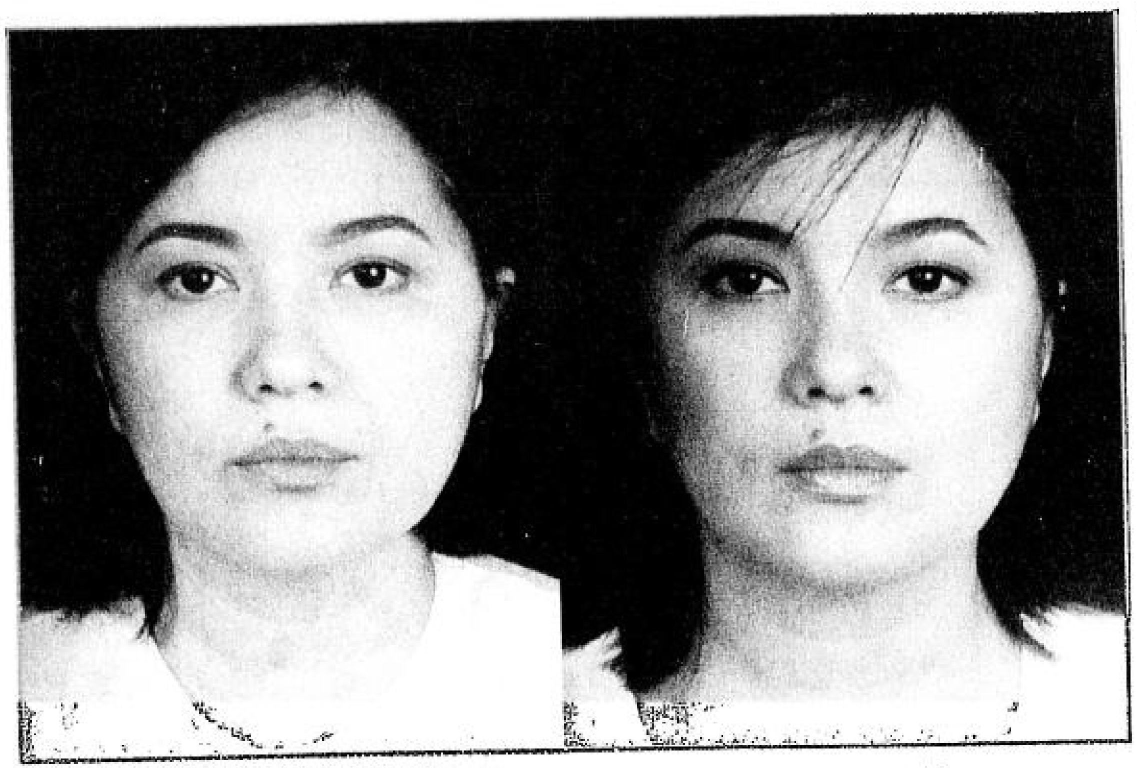
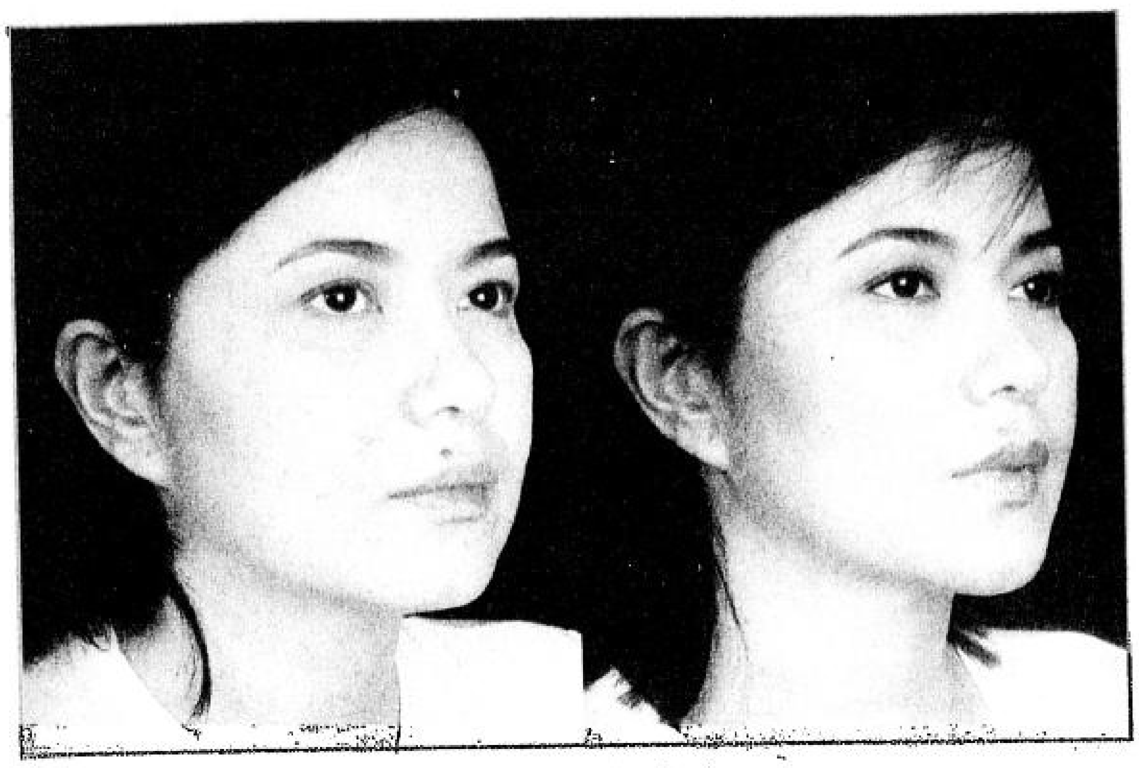


LIFE IS WAITING. This teenager finds a moment's peace and steals a quick snack while waiting for the bus that will take him home. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*



LORNA'S sagging jowls have been diminished, while her nose has regained its definition.



BEFORE and after photos show an improvement in her jaw line.

Age-defying wonder gets a screen test

From page F1

prominent, jowls starting to appear, and once prominent features like the nose and chin slowly losing their definition.

"Thermage sort of wounds the tissues beneath the face to wake up a reparative and regenerative process," says Belo. "As we get older, our bodies tend to become lazy. Thermage jumpstarts the process."

Aside from being non-invasive, Thermage, which Belo describes as a more "subtle form of face lift," has a short treatment time (one hour) and has no so-called downtime. In Lorna's case, for instance, she went through the treatment's first phase in front of the cameras for a reality TV show.

According to Belo, the one-time treatment, which costs between P100,000 to P120,000, involves a series of "passes" on both cheeks, forehead, chin, jaw line and even the nose. If the doctor to the stars is to be believed, Thermage is versatile enough to give sagging arms and breasts a lift. Lorna plans to put Belo's claim to the test next time.

"I kept asking Vicki to bring Thermage here," says Lorna, who has been religiously going to Belo for her figure and skin-care needs for almost 10 years now. "I was so excited when she finally acquired it."

Two sessions

Belo could have done everything in one sitting, but doctor and patient had opted to do it in two. According to Lorna, she didn't experience any bruising or redness in the face after the treatment. However, she felt "mild to tolerable" pain during the procedure since she wasn't sedated.

"She's really brave," says Belo, of her star client. "Edu (Manzano) and Albert (Martinez) also underwent Thermage while they were wide awake. But patients now have a choice whether or not to be sedated."

Going for Thermage turned out to be worth it when casting for "Sugo," her new GMA soap opera starring Richard Gutierrez, came a few weeks later.

Since the soap has a number of flashbacks, the character Lorna was supposed to play had scenes in her 20s and 40s. She had no qualms playing her real age, but who could breathe life into the younger version of the character? Based on what she heard, she initially thought she was being taken for a ride.

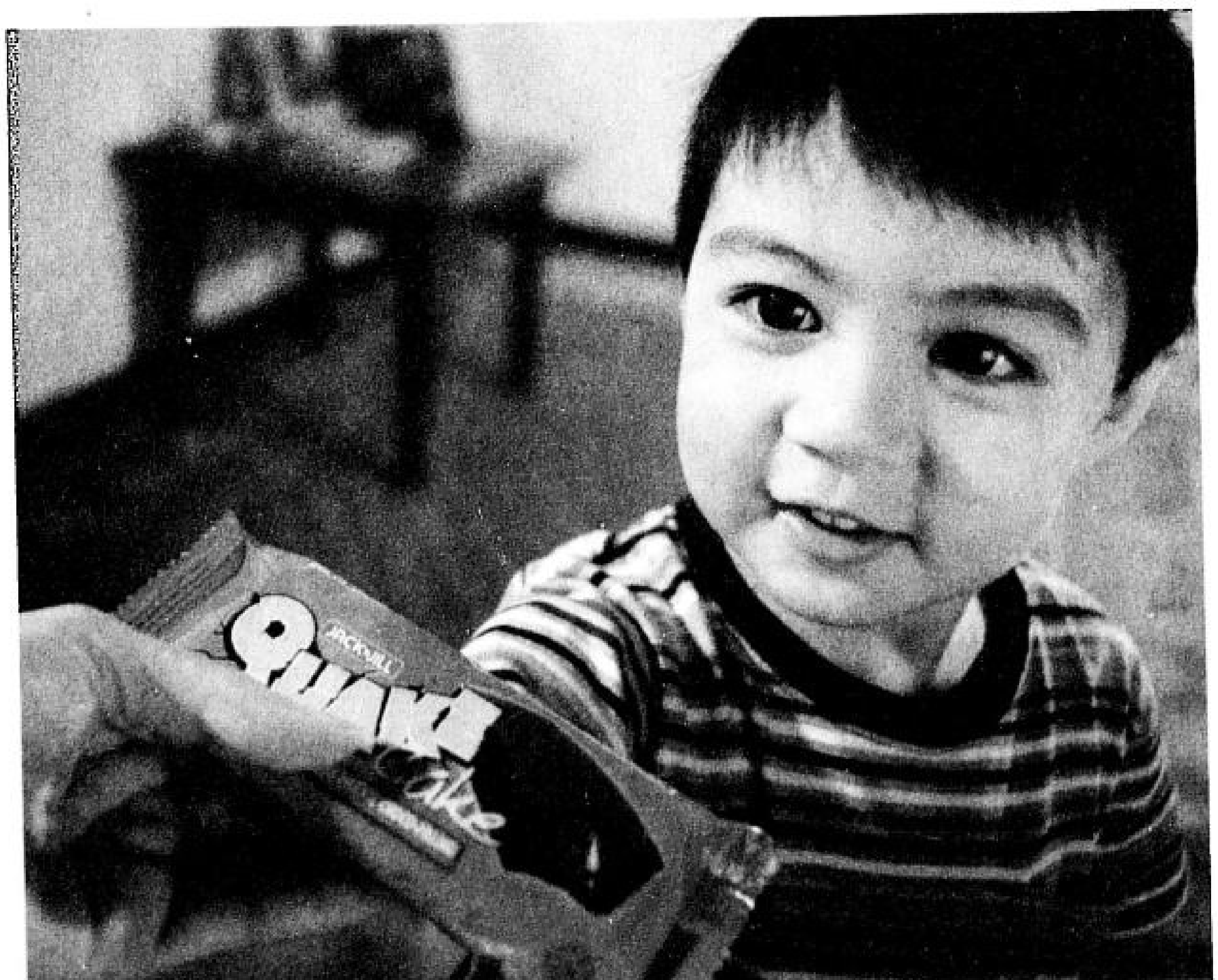
"Of course," she says, "I didn't expect to play the part anymore, but they told me to do it as well. They think I can pull it off."

A middle-aged woman playing a twentysomething character? With good acting and a little help from friend Vicky Belo, Lorna Tolentino is all set for light, camera and action.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

HER puffy cheeks are now a thing of the past, while her prominent chin is here to stay longer.

MISS PHILIPPINES-EARTH 2005 candidates after completing the beauty and personality development training



LIFE'S OPENING UP for this little boy whose great curiosity for the world around him is starting to show as he reaches out for his favorite treat. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*

Makeup of beauty queens

GLOBAL beauty company Avon is the official beauty enhancer of the 2005 Ms Philippines-Earth Beauty Pageant. Thus, a beauty stopover at Avon is a must for the 22 beauty queen wannabes.

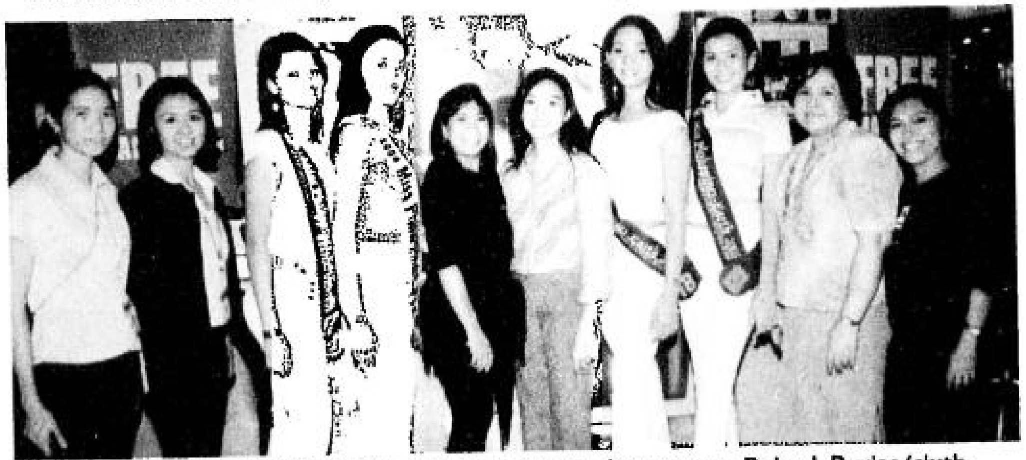
Avon helped the candidates prepare for the much-awaited coronation night with an intensive beauty and personality development training conducted by their in-house trainors and makeup artists. The beauty company also joined the beauties on the road during the Heal the Earth concert Series.

Candidates and mall-goers alike were treated to free Avon Color makeovers provided by Avon's in-house makeup artists.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $6.8 billion in annual revenues. Avon markets to women around the world through 4.4 million independent sales representatives.

Avon product lines include such recognizable brand names as Avon Color, Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Solutions, Avon Naturals, Avon Fashions and Avon Wellness. Avon also markets an extensive line of fashion jewelry and apparel.

Aside from providing women with quality beauty products and meaningful earning opportunities, Avon is also the largest corporate supporter of the breast cancer cause. More information about Avon and its products can be found on the company's web site, www.avoncompany.com.



MISS PHILIPPINES-EARTH 2005 hopefuls join Avon sales manager Bobeck Burias (sixth from left), Avon franchise manager Lolit Manalo (second from right), reigning Miss Philippines Fire 2004 Shiela Alonzo, Avon franchise dealers and makeup artists during a Heal the Earth concert.

MATRIX Colorgraphics lightens, tones and conditions hair in one step.

Three days of beauty bliss

From page F4

ors. There's even a machine that swayed hair from side to side to monitor how many swings it would take to significantly loosen curls.

That same afternoon, we headed to the IFC mall to try the Diagnos machine and have a Lancôme facial or makeover. As expected, Hong Kong's cooler weather and the air-conditioned environment we were constantly exposed to showed more favorable results with less oil production on my otherwise acne-prone skin. Frequent travelers must bear in mind that skincare should vary from country to country. So listen to your skin's needs before planning the regimen.

In the goody bag we got were Lancôme UV expert SPF 50 sun block, which was a nice matte primer for makeup, and Rouge Attraction in Beige Rose lipstick, a neutral pink nude.

Day 3

Our last day was still a full one as we visited three trendy L'Oreal salons—one at a trendy mall and the other two at street-level shops. One mall was high-end, the next midpriced and the last very reasonably priced.

The most exciting part was L'Oreal's promise that Matrix hair color and color-coded hair care would soon be in the Philippines. These services will be more reasonably priced than Kerastase and L'Oreal Professionel.

All products mentioned except Lancôme's are not yet locally available, but will soon be.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

LANCÔME Rouge Attraction in Beige Rose

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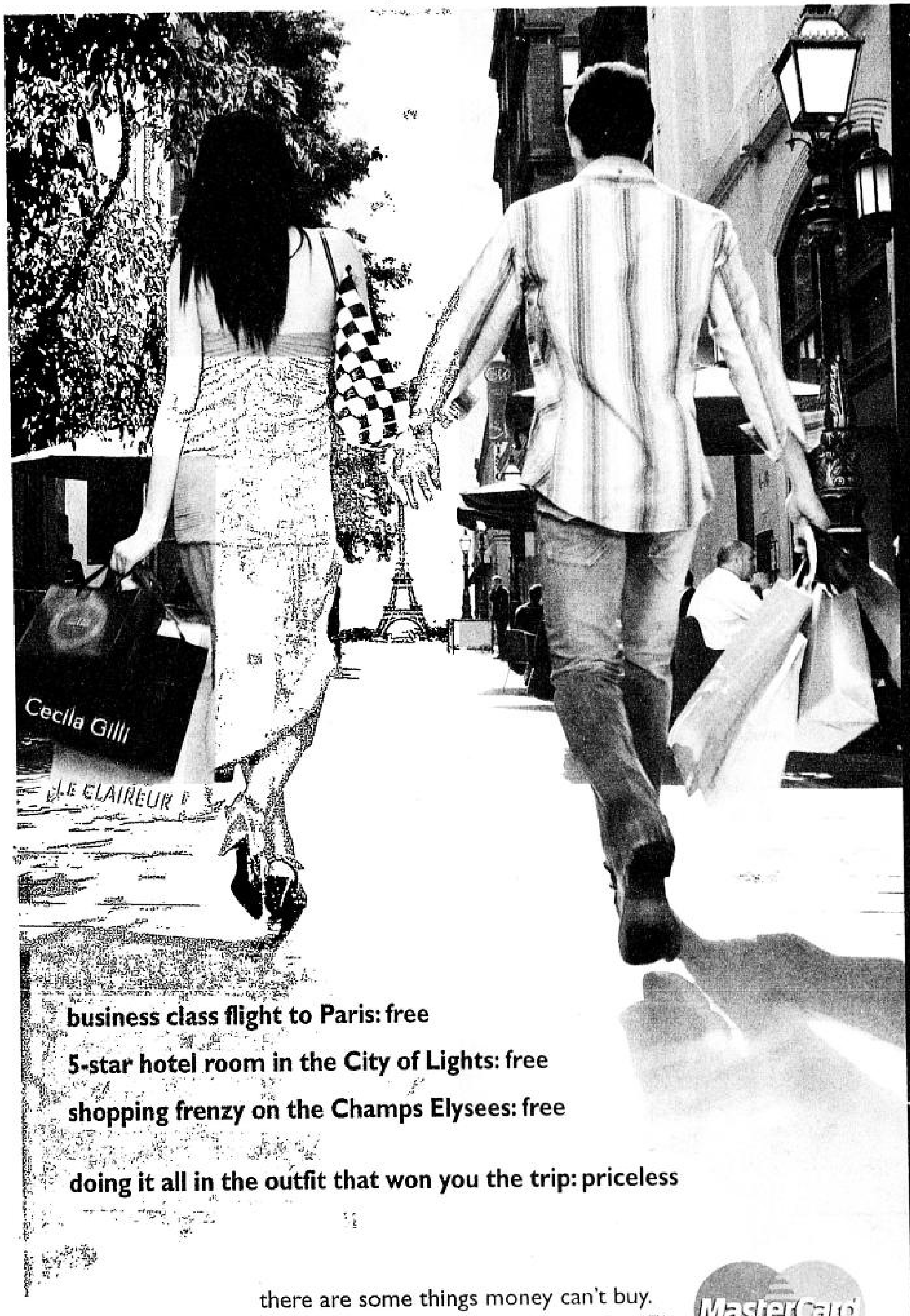

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*Promotion runs from June 1, 2005 to October 31, 2005

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LIFE'S COOL. Despite the blazing heat, these kids enjoy a classic game of jump rope in the cool shade provided by the large billboard. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*

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Three days of beauty bliss

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HAVE I ever mentioned how much I love this job? Recently, L'Oreal Phils. invited me and five other journalists to Hong Kong for a three-day, two-night stay. The main purpose was to give us a preview of the beautiful things they have in store for the Philippine market.

Needless to say, three full days of beauty product overload was sheer heaven.

Day 1

Kiehl's shop at Times Square and Harbor City. This is perhaps the most-awaited bath and body line in the Philippines. Way before it became a Bureau of Food and Drug regulation to list the ingredients of our cosmetics, Kiehl's had been doing this since its birth in 1851.

The brand is well-known for no-frills packaging, mostly fragrance-free products and quality botanical ingredients.

The L'Oreal girls supplied us with travel sizes of their famous products to road-test during the trip. Among them was the famous Lip Balm No. 1, which my badly chapped lips love.

For bath products, there's Mango Bath and Shower Liquid Body Cleanser, Amino acid shampoo and Kiehl's Hair Conditioner/Grooming Aid, which took some getting used to because it didn't lather as much as the other grocery brands. But it delivered great results—my hair was bouncy and manageable afterwards, and my skin was clean but soft without the greasy after-feel.

The skincare line definitely had sensitive skin in mind as most of the products were fragrance-free. They also carried a non-comedogenic (anti-pore clogging) sun protection line, my current favorite of which is Vital Sun Protection SPF 30.

Day 2

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the event was a visit to the Hair Museum where we learned tons of hair trivia. The most interesting for me was the video footage of L'Oreal's testing facility for hair products, which would help one understand why L'Oreal has become the leader in hair-care products.

The L'Oreal labs have machines that mimic UV exposure, to be able to tell how many days and how much exposure to light and the elements would actually lead to fading hair col

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The bell rings...

Back to School Supplement

VELLA DAMIAN: Behind successful ballerinas are parents who are supportive

BALLET with a view: Students hang out in the balcony

Ballet in Avenida

Text by Raquel P. Gomez
Photos by Roger Carpio

A ballet school put up beside the LRT tracks is a sign that a culture of dance is emerging from a tough neighborhood

"BALLET LESSONS" reads the small sign hanging on a balcony of a yellow-painted building that stands among the many old structures running the length of LRT tracks on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

When you're riding the LRT, you won't fail to see the small sign in that sweet building spot ornamented by plants. But to look for it below the LRT tracks, in a street littered with medical supply stores, it takes some effort, for there's no sign that tells where it is. This ballet school, however, is a sign that a culture of dance is emerging from this tough neighborhood.

The Vella C. Damian School of Ballet located on the third floor of Cleotilde Medical Supplies Building opened in October last year and has since attracted a handful of students.

Young ballet teacher Atea Rose Ortiz taught two classes comprised of children aged three to ten years old. Her students come from private schools in the neighborhood such as Espiritu Santo School and St. Mary's. There was even one student from a public school. The children attend one-hour class on Saturdays and Sundays.

It was the first time for many of the students used to seeing modern dance on television to learn ballet or even heard the term "ballet," according to Ortiz.

"They were really shy when they saw me. Ballet is something so new to them. The dance they know is from the Sex Bomb dancers. They were even asking me if later on during the class we would dance the 'spaghetti' dance."

"I was really challenged to teach these children," says Ortiz. "The children here aren't exposed to ballet. I have to make them understand that ballet is not a simple dance such as what they see in the street, that it's not for rich kids, but for everyone."

Marissa Olano, who lives in Tayabas Street, enrolled her five-year-old daughter Justin Mel in a summer ballet class. She says that she really appreciate the opening of a ballet school in the area. She says her daughter was really fond of dancing, but she wanted to make her have a formal training.

"I saw the 'ballet' sign while I was in the LRT. I made some inquiry and now my daughter is part of the pre-ballet class. When my daughter comes home after a ballet class, she's very happy. I think she's enjoying the dance. I plan to make her take more classes in the future."

The ballet school is the seventh branch of the popular Vella C. Damian School of Ballet. It was put up by Vella Damian, the country's distinguished ballerina and ballet teacher, with the help of Cleotilde Loyola Navea, who provided the rent-free space for the

BALLET/ G2

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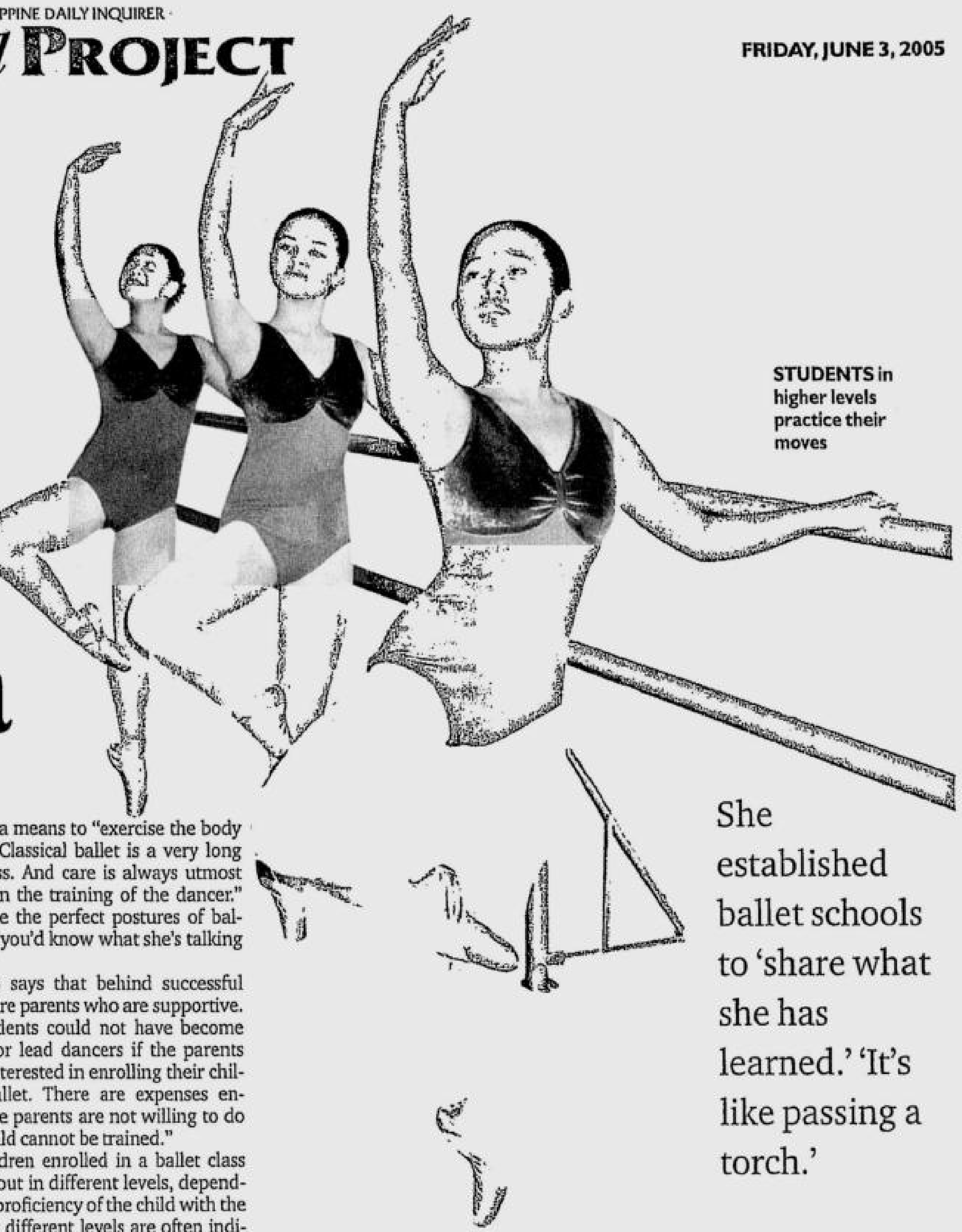
KINDER ballet students are often fascinated with the wearing of ballet shoes



STUDENTS in higher levels practice their moves

Ballet in Avenida

From page G1

dance studio.

Navea, who runs a medical supply store, wanted the children from middle to low-income families in Sta. Cruz to have access to classical ballet like her two children who go for advance ballet classes at the main branch of Vella C. Damian School of Ballet in Quezon City.

Damian is a well-respected personality in the culture and arts world. Her list of distinctions and accomplishments run a mile. She trained under the late Remedios "Totoy" de Oteyza and in the schools of George Balanchine and Reobert Joffrey in New York. She has been teaching ballet for more than four decades and she has produced some of the country's finest dancers.

She established ballet schools to "share what she has learned." "It's like passing a torch. When you see your students blossom and they decide to go into professional ballet work, that's the pride and joy of a teacher."

Damian says enrolling a child to a ballet class has advantages. For one, the formal dance teaches the child discipline. "The discipline is almost military-like. From the time they're still young, that's already instilled in them."

THE studio in Rizal Avenue

It is also a means to "exercise the body properly." "Classical ballet is a very long slow process. And care is always utmost important in the training of the dancer." Just observe the perfect postures of ballerinas and you'd know what she's talking about.

She also says that behind successful ballerinas are parents who are supportive. "These students could not have become ballerinas or lead dancers if the parents were not interested in enrolling their children to ballet. There are expenses entailed. If the parents are not willing to do this, the child cannot be trained."

The children enrolled in a ballet class are sorted out in different levels, depending on the proficiency of the child with the dance. The different levels are often indicated by the color of ballet uniforms the children wear. Kinder ballet students often wear cute fuchsia uniforms. Those wearing deeper hues of blues belong to advance classes. Talented ones are separated through the leveling. Some dancers will go ahead of the others and do more advance work, says Damian.

Ballet lessons entail many levels of proficiency. Some students, who enrolled in ballet class at age four or five, still learn the craft until they reach their teens.

"Some of my students are already in college and they're still dancing. Some of them, they're already working but they still want to come for ballet classes in the weekends. There is no such thing as finishing ballet, it's there until you decide to retire. From the different ballet schools, the students just gravitate or go towards professional work and join ballet companies."

In the country, there are three major companies a student of ballet can opt to go if they want to pursue a career in ballet. These are Ballet Philippines of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ballet Manila under Lisa Macuja, and Philippine Ballet Theater.

But for the handful of students enrolled in Vella C. Damian school in Rizal Avenue, they have yet to contemplate the future of their dancing. As for Ortiz, who blossomed under the tutelage of Damian, is still in the process of adapting to the new environment.

"I love teaching the children. When you are already inside the studio, you tend to forget about the environment. The only thing that distracts the class is when the LRT passes by, we could hardly hear the music."

> She established ballet schools to 'share what she has learned.' 'It's like passing a torch.'

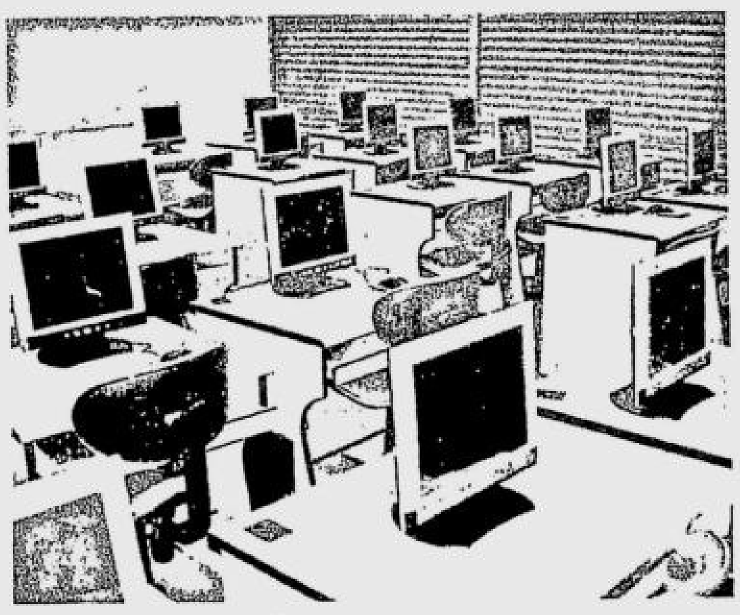
New England College: Providing a progressive approach in learning

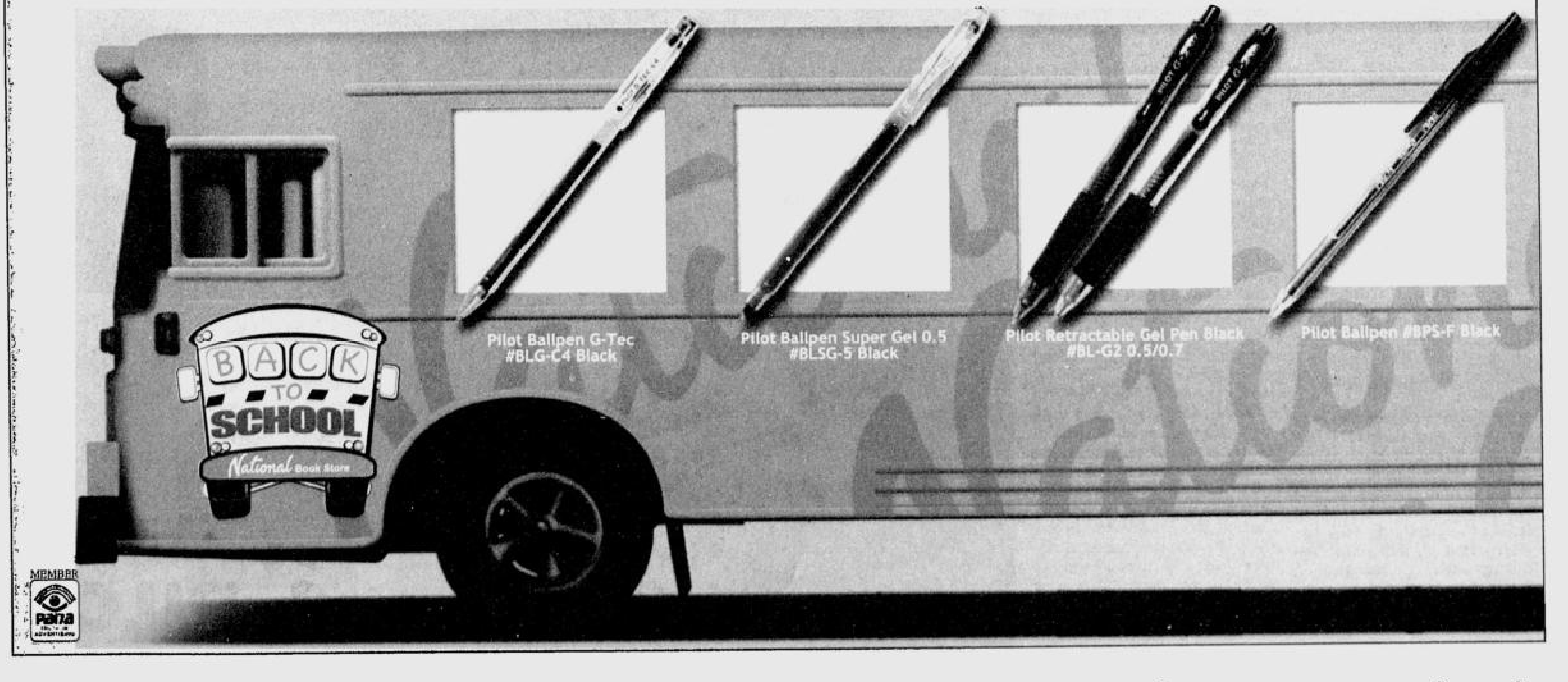
RESPONDING to the global demand for trained manpower professionals and to CHED's calling for quality education in the Philippines, New England College (NEC) emerges into the educational landscape as one committed to uplift the standard of education for the Filipino youth by delivering a high quality of education based on international standard. As the name itself represents New England College vows to offer the kind of elite education similar to that inherited from the long legacy of world-renowned institutions in the New England region, the center of American educational excellence.

New England College (NEC) aims to provide a progressive approach in learning where students are developed not only to become nationalistic, humanistic and value-oriented individuals but also to become work-oriented individuals and outward looking professionals that can compete and survive in a globalized environment and therefore, become great contributors to national development. In NEC, students will learn in a more interactive process using state-of the-art skills laboratory, equipped with the most advanced and complete U.S. equipment in a simulated actual hospital setting and ICT tools where hands-on learning experiences are made available to the students daily. Through extensive hands-on learning experiences, the students are guaranteed of acquiring up-to-date skills needed by various healthcare institutions worldwide.

New England College (NEC) is not only committed to provide an international standard of quality education through its accredited qualified faculty members but also to provide job placement assistance with its networking linkages in various healthcare institutions in US, Canada, UK, Japan and China. NEC offers complete student assistance from the time the students step into the threshold of NEC until they graduate and look for jobs either locally or abroad. Various scholarships are available for deserving students and affordable financial schemes for tuition fee installment plan can be obtained from the registrar's office. Parents and guardians are very welcome to visit their state-of-the-art fully air-conditioned facilities anytime, Monday to Friday - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ; Saturday - 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Enrollment period is from May 16 to June 10.

New England College is located at No. 40 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila with tel. nos. 742-4050, 711-0857, 711-3406, 711-9379.





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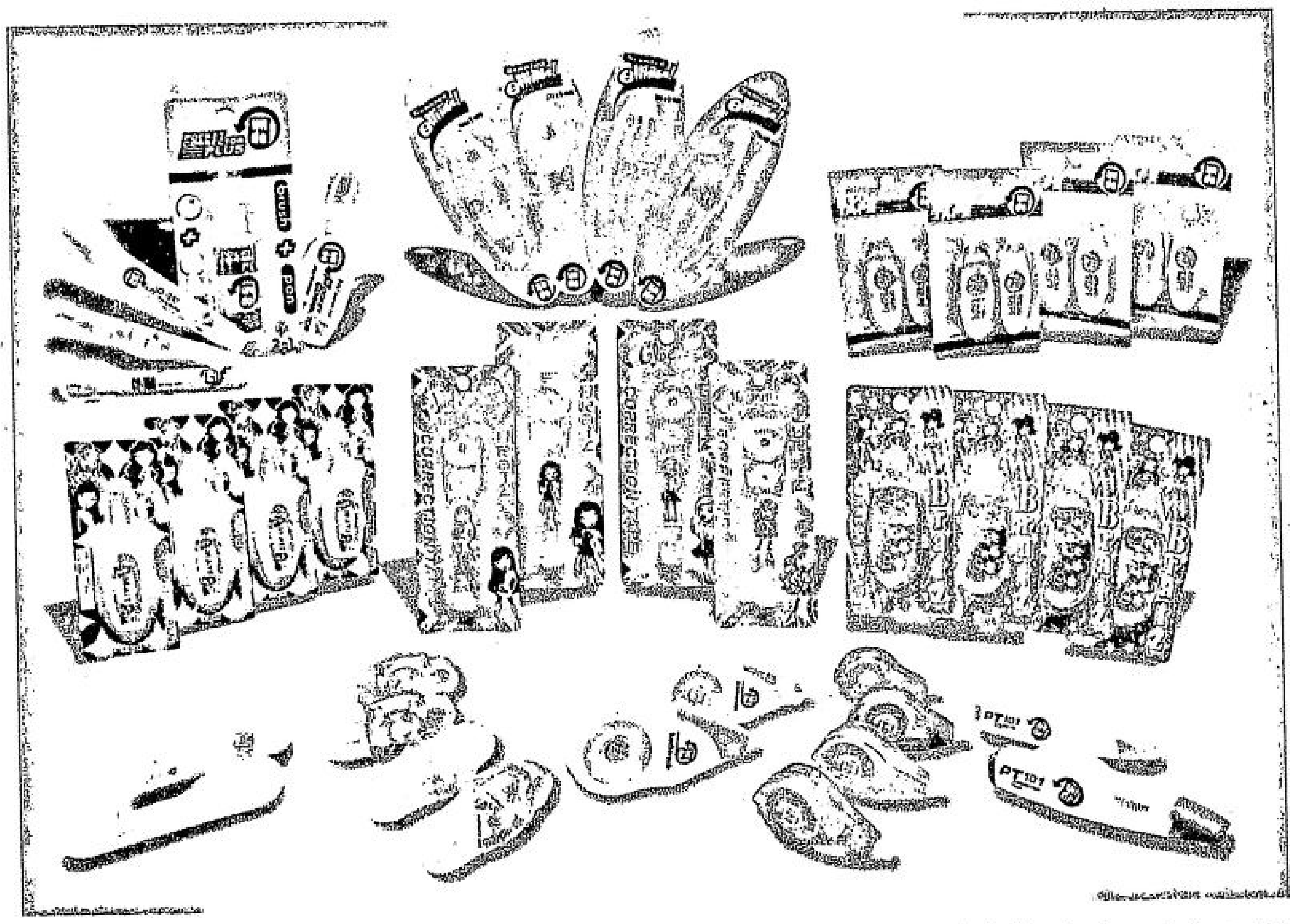


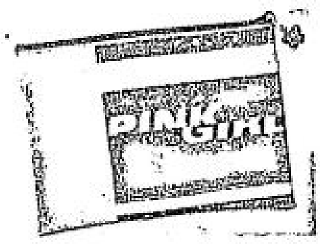
SINCE its introduction in 2003, Undo Correction Products has been well recognized for its quality and affordability. Undo responds to the growing need for choices and innovation in the correction products segment by offering the widest and most exciting range of correctors in the market today.

Offices that opt for the fluid type can now choose from a variety of correction pens that also include a 2-in-1 type-the Undo Pocket Corrector Plus, which can be used as a conventional bottle-and-brush for large corrections, and a correction pen for smaller, precise corrections.

Kids, on the other hand, will certainly love the colorful Undo correction tapes, especially the one-of-a-kind Undo Ellipse scented correction tape. It is the first Jasmine-scented correction product sold in the market.

Correction tapes, correction fluids, scented, refillable, 2-in-1-your choices for this back-to-school season are endless. Undo Correction Products is exclusively distributed by Star Paper Corp, and is available in major bookstores and leading department stores nationwide.

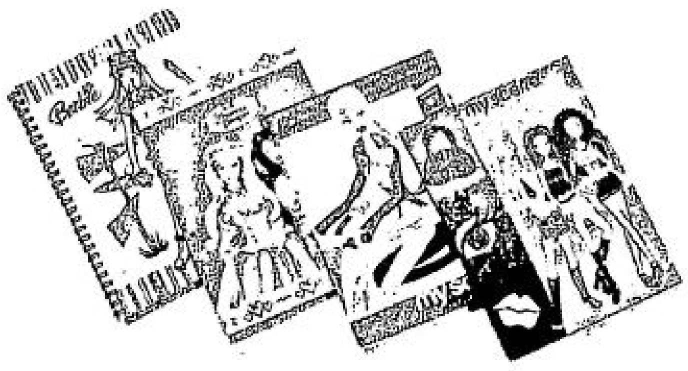
Welcome the new school year with trendy gear



IT'S SCHOOL time once again, and what better way to greet the new school year than welcoming it in style.

Good thing kids are now prepared for school. But are their clothes and things ready as well?

Richwell Trading Corp has the complete line of stylish school items with matching Barbie designs. From notebooks, socks to school bags, young girls would truly love these fashionable school gear as they go their way to school. Also available are raincoats, water jugs and school envelopes in classy plastic designs.



Students get support from Merriam & Webster Bookstore

MARCH once again fulfilled its mission of sending graduates right to their victory. Now, it's June's turn to escort another batch of students to the gates of their prospective havens of learning.

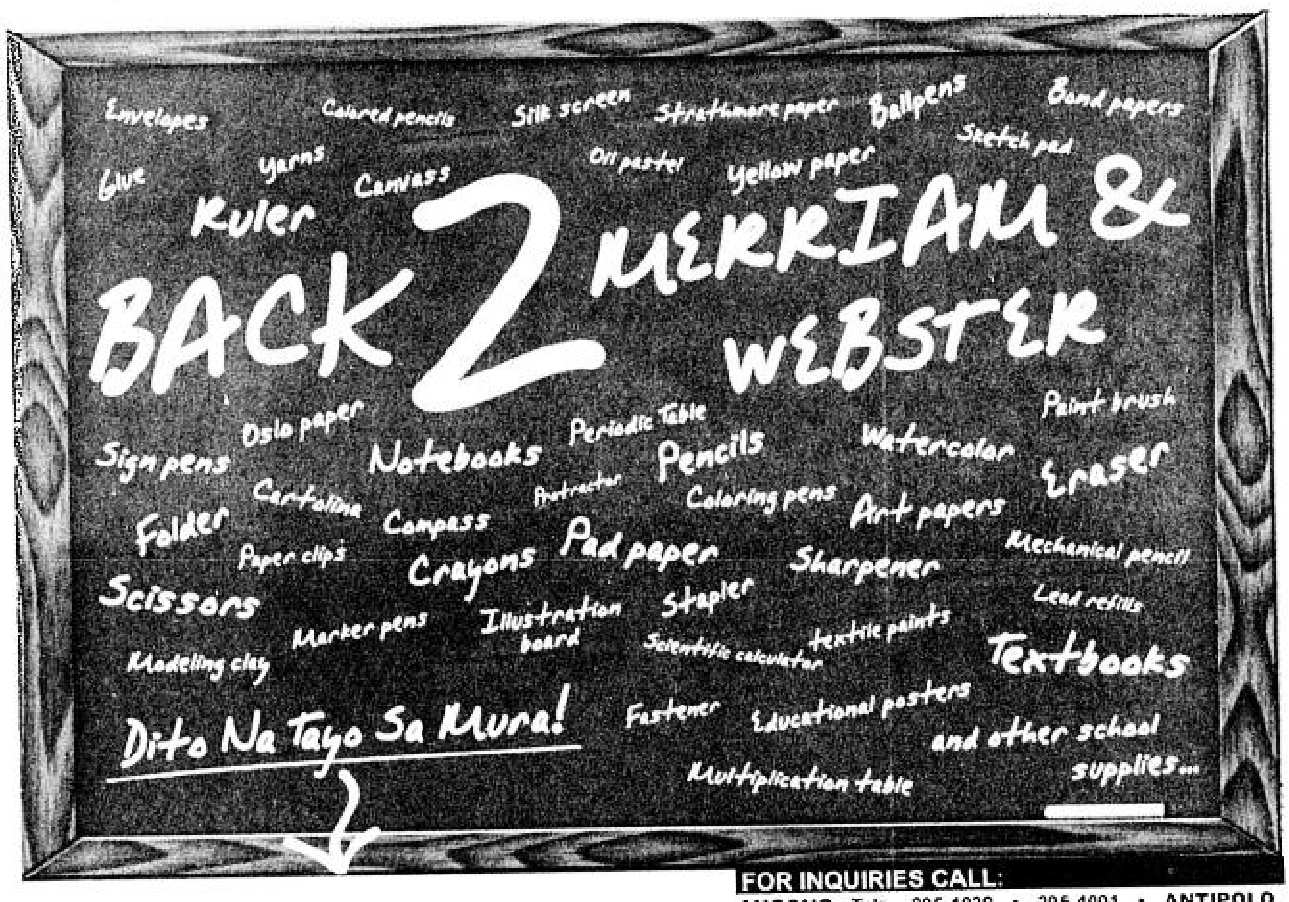
It has often been stereotyped that the month of June has been purely a "let's-get-married month". Rather, it is more of a start for the "our-lesson-for-today routine". Empty schools will once again be occupied by students yearning for education. But before that happens, students are expected to pay a considerable sum for tuition payments and other school requirements.

But at one reliable store, there's no price hike for books, school and office supplies. And it only happens in one dependable place-Merriam & Webster Bookstore. From elementary to college levels, first-rate books and school supplies are available at its most affordable price.

The store offers technical books for commerce, nursing, medical, engineering and even fine arts students with average financial means. Novelty items and other books of particular interest are also accessible at reasonable prices.

For years, Merriam & Webster Bookstore has been a constant partner of thousands of students towards success because of its down-the-line product pricing. It has made students realize that it doesn't take a high-end bookstore to provide them the right resources. This has been the goal of Merriam & Webster Bookstore, and it has succeeded. Its sincere commitment to provide quality products at the right price has enabled it to surpass competition and branch out to more than 15 locations in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Merriam & Webster Bookstore is located at Morayta, Angono, Antipolo, Avenida, Caloocan, Chinatown, Tandang Sora, Del Monte, Las Pinas, Makati, Marikina, Novaliches, Pasay, Pasig, St. Luke's and at Wholesale.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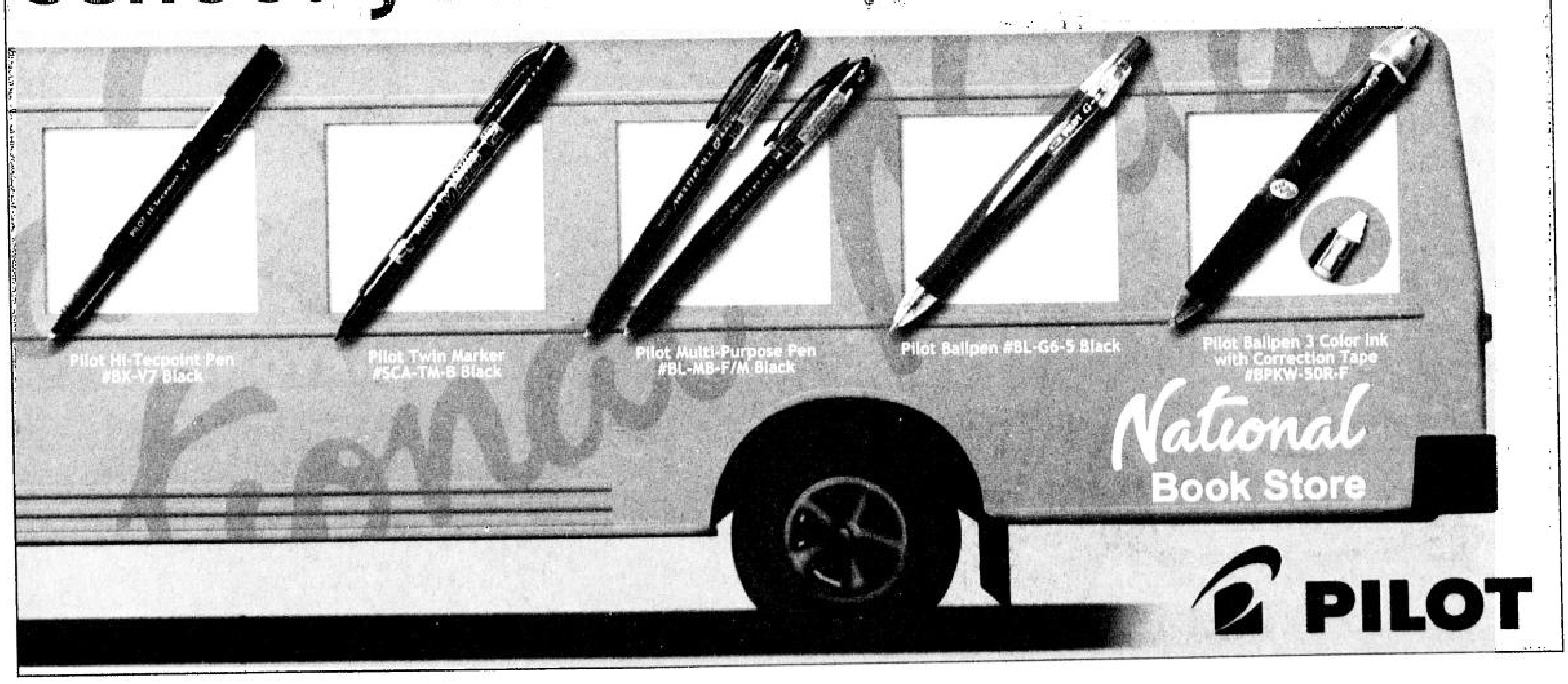
school year with National Book Store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Lifeguard: Swift response to school emergencies

SUMMER is gone and school is just around the corner. After all the holiday fun, it is now time for our precious children to start school once again. Parents will be faced with the challenge of letting go and the feeling of separation anxiety, knowing that the safety of their children will be in the hands of their respective schools. With this is mind, here is one sure way for parents to secure the safety of their children.

Guard-all Electronic Security Systems Inc, Manila's top digital monitoring and security company, together with Lifeline Arrows, a pre-eminent private ambulance service, is proud to introduce Lifeguard.

Lifeguard is simply a quick response for all types of emergencies. A simple push of a button will set in motion the rapid response service, which includes a fully equipped ambulance, a fire brigade or the police department closest to the area.

Lifeguard provides each school with a digital emergency call system connected to a 24-hour monitoring service station in Makati. This covers everyone within the school premises, even guests.

Here are a few issues to be considered, and reasons, as to why you should have Lifeguard protecting your school:

Did you know that accidents are the 6th leading cause of death here in the Philippines? Accidents can happen in a split second. The most recent case is the tragedy in Bohol, where 28 students died of food poisoning.

It is important that your establishment can call for immediate support, and transfer liability to highly trained professionals who can handle any type of emergency. For a minimal fee of P95 a child per year, peace of mind can be yours.

For more information on Lifeguard, call 817-4132 or 812-7065 local 709.

Star Paper's exciting back-to-school offerings

HEY, MOMS and dads, great news! For this back-to-school season, look for great treats from Star Paper Corp with Leone Kids, their new line of crayons and pencils made especially for your little ones, and an exciting new pen from Leone writing instruments.

Leone Kids Pencils

Available in Nos. 1 and 2, Leone Kids pencils are made of California cedar wood (you can actually smell the difference), encasing high-quality lead graphite, and premium quality eraser that won't mess up or tear your notebook pages.

Leone Kids Crayons

Made with high quality paraffin wax for that intense color lay down, Leone Kids Crayons will let your children express their creativity in bright, brilliant colors. Available in boxes of 8, 16, 24 colors and the 8-color Super-size box.

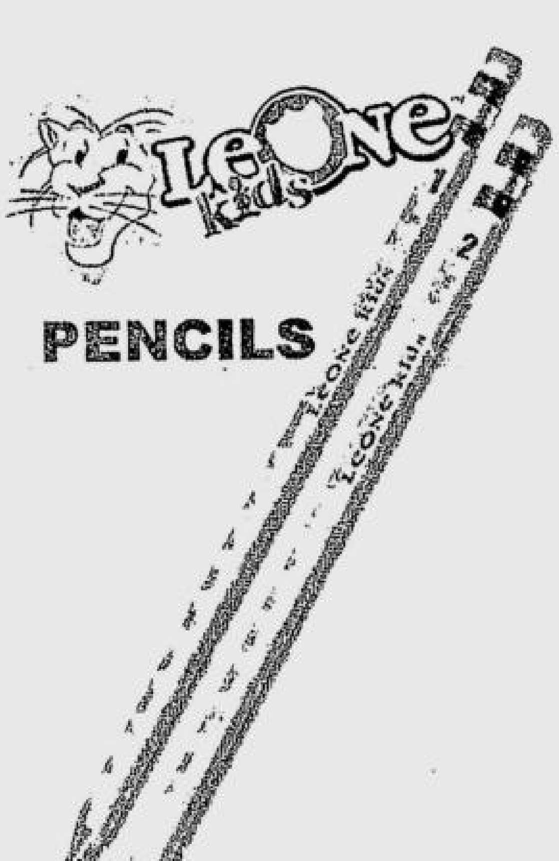
The biggest hook for the Leone Kids brand is the price-high-quality pencils and crayons without the high quality price. Look for them in all bookstores and leading department stores nationwide.

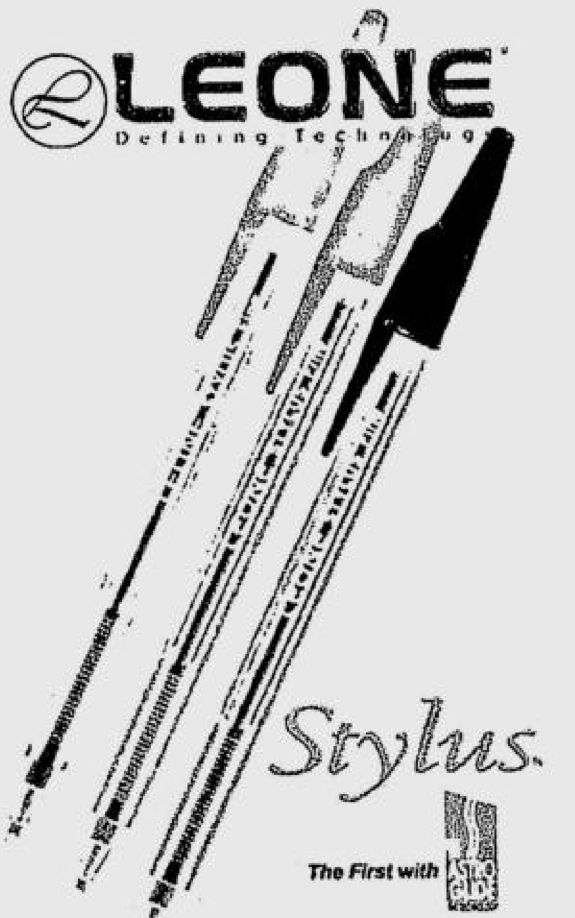
Leone Stylus

And to complete your back-to-school list, don't forget to try the new Leone Stylus ball pen. Looks just about the same as any ordinary pen, you might say, but wait till you try writing with it.

Leone Stylus ball pens are the first ball pens with the new, revolutionary Astroglide Ink technology-the first and only oil-based ink in a ballpoint pen. You'll swear it's the smoothest writing experience ever. And it's available in black, blue and red.

Test write one today in leading bookstores and department stores nationwide.





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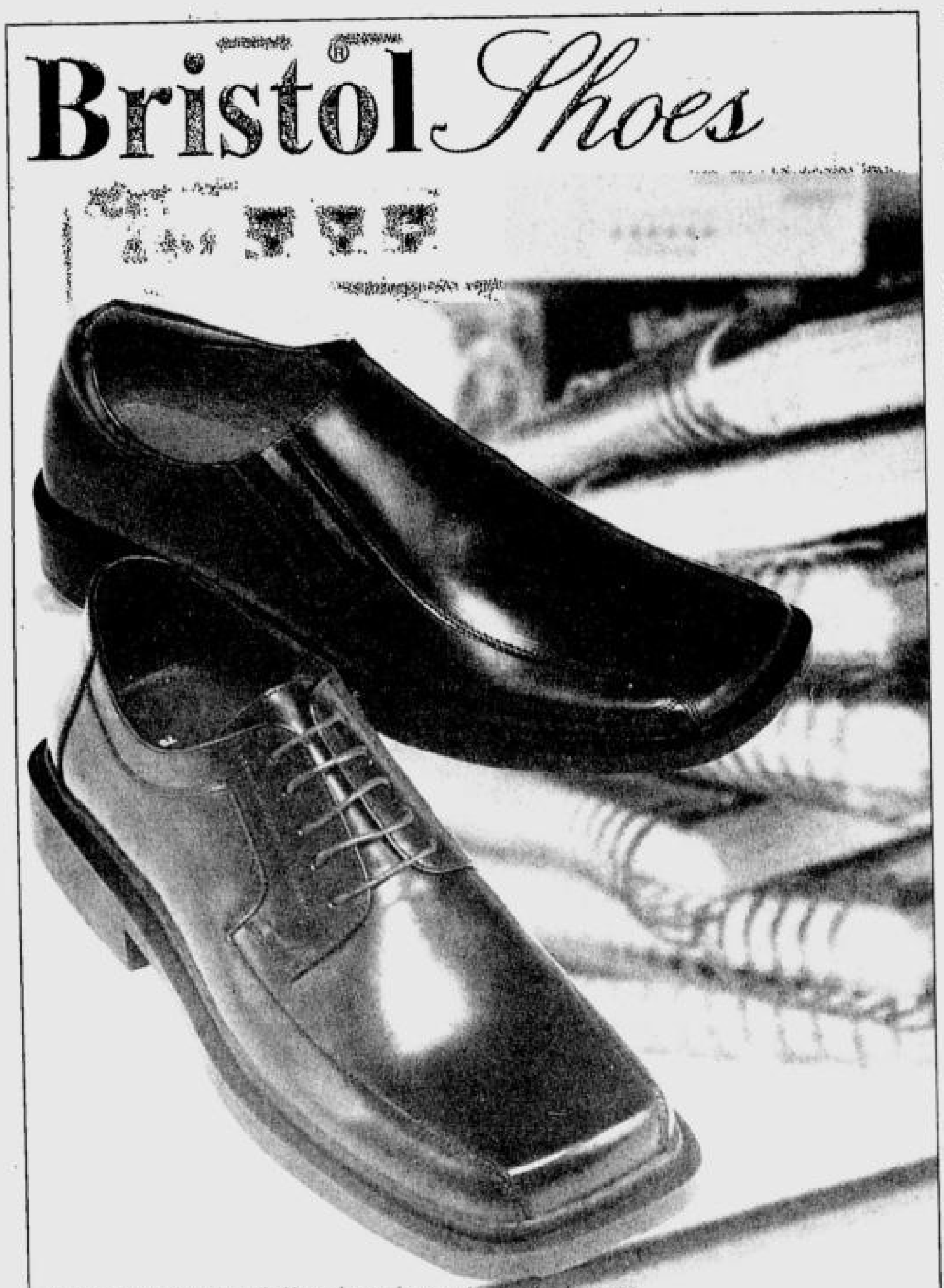
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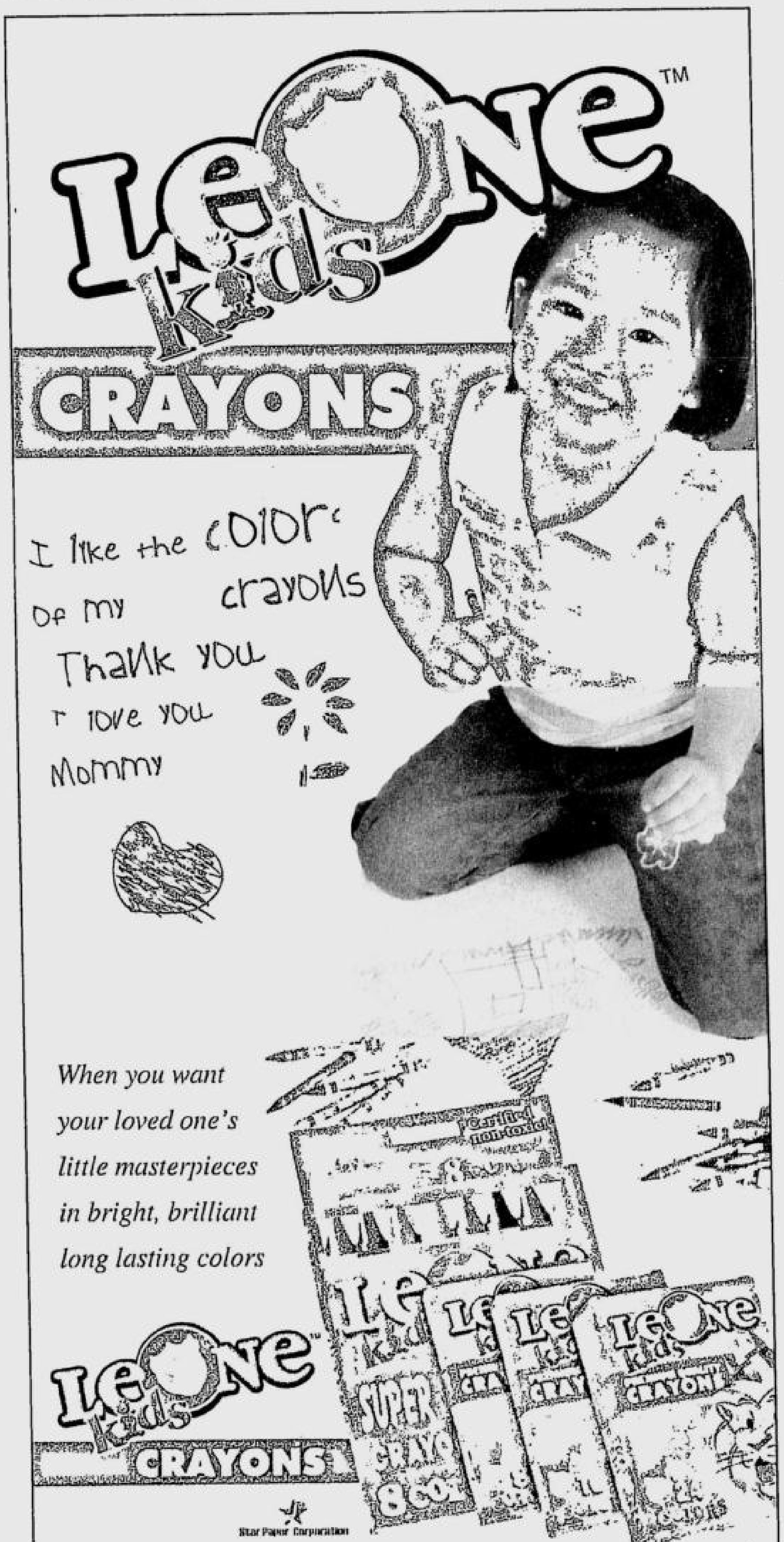
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The bell rings ...

Back to School Supplement

Survival tips for children, teens

IN A few more days, the "happy days of summer" will be over, and millions of youngsters will once again, begrudgingly or otherwise, wake up early to face new teachers, new classmates, and the challenges of formal schooling.

For parents and guardians of these students, a whole new set of challenges presents itself as well. While the students concentrate on learning, parents are compelled to make sure their sons and daughters are in perfect conditions of learning.

Here are some helpful tips to make sure those conditions are met.

AP

IN THE dark? Parents can help ease their children's fear of moving to a new school by honest reasoning and a 3-month notice.

Backpack safety

In choosing the right backpack. Look for the following:

- Wide, padded shoulder straps-Narrow straps can dig into shoulders. This can cause pain and restrict circulation.
- Padded back-A padded back protects against sharp edges on objects inside the pack and increases comfort.

To prevent injury when using a backpack, do the following:

- Pack light. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight.
- Always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles. Wearing a backpack on one shoulder may increase curvature of the spine.
- Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back.
- Use a rolling backpack. This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load. Remember that rolling backpacks still must be carried upstairs. And they may be difficult to roll in snow.

1st day of school checklist

Is your child registered? What time does school start? What time is lunch? Can your child buy it at school, and how much will it cost? Will she need a snack?

Have any new health problems developed in your child over the summer that will affect her school day? Does the school nurse know about this condition, or is an appointment set up to discuss it?

If your child needs to take medication at school on the first day, have arrangements been made for this?

Does your youngster know where she is going after school? Does she know how she will get there? If you will not be there when she arrives, does she know who will be responsible for her, what the rules are, and how to get help in an emergency?

Moving to new school?

- If possible, give your teen three months' notice before an upcoming move, so that he has time to absorb the news and get used to the idea.
- Explain the reason for relocating.
- Familiarize your child with her new neighborhood ahead of time. If it's within driving distance, give him several grand tours.
- Emphasize the positive aspects of the move.

Making 1st day easier

Remind your child that she is not the only student who is a bit uneasy about the first day of school. Teachers know that students are anxious and will make an extra effort to make sure everyone feels as comfortable as possible.

Point out the positive aspects of starting school: It will be fun. She'll see old friends and meet new ones. Refresh her memory about previous years, when she may have returned home after the first day with high spirits because she had a good time.

Find another child in the neighborhood with whom your youngster can walk to school or ride with.

Drive your child (or walk with her) to school and pick her up on the first day.

School avoidance

If your teen is avoiding school, and has anxiety about returning:

- Talk to your teenager about why he doesn't want to go to school.
- Contact the principal, guidance counselor and school nurse, and make them aware of the situation.
- After you've taken steps to rectify the upsetting circumstances, insist that your teen return to school immediately.
- Severe phobias may require a gradual reentry to school. After five days of anxiety-related absences from school, it's time to visit your pediatrician.

Developing good study habits

- Create an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Youngsters need a permanent workspace in their bedroom or another part of the home that offers privacy.
- Set aside ample time for homework.
- Establish a household rule that the TV set stays off during homework time.
- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance. But never do a child's homework for her.
- To help alleviate eye fatigue, neck fatigue and brain fatigue while studying, it's recommended that youngsters close the books for 10 minutes every hour and go do something else.
- If your child is struggling with a particular subject, and you aren't able to help her yourself, a tutor can be a good solution. Talk it over with your child's teacher first.

Eating in school

Plan on packing lunch when school cafeteria food is one your child prefers not to eat.

Try to get your child's school to stock healthy choices in the vending machines.

Vending machines choices can also be modified to eliminate high-fat and empty-calorie munchies and provide healthy snacks that include more fresh fruit and low-fat dairy products, as well as water and 100-percent fruit juice instead of sodas.

Each 12-ounce soft drink contains approximately 10 teaspoons of sugar and 150 calories. Drinking just one can of soda a day increases a child's risk of obesity by 60 percent. Restrict your child's soft drink consumption.

Before and after school child care

During middle childhood, youngsters need supervision. A responsible adult should be available to get them ready and off to school in the morning and watch over them after school until you return home from work.

Children approaching adolescence (the 11-and 12-year olds) should not come home to an empty house in the afternoon unless they show unusual maturity for their age.

If alternative adult supervision is not available, parents should make special efforts to supervise their children from a distance. Children should have a set time when they are expected to arrive at home and should check in with a neighbor or with a parent by telephone.

When evaluating child-care options, determine whether other family members can handle these responsibilities. For example, does a grandparent or other relative live nearby, and is he or she available and willing to help?

TV tips

- Set limits on the amount of TV your child watches. Be firm. Limit children's TV viewing to an hour or two daily.
- Hide the remote. Eliminate channel surfing, which encourages passive viewing. Keep TVs out of your youngster's bedroom. Children should watch their favorite shows in a central area of the home.
- Whenever possible, videotape programs and watch them later. Fast forwarding through commercials will shave 10 minutes off of every hour of TV viewing.
- Discourage repeated viewings of the same video. The graphic language, violence and sexual content of movies rated PG-13 and R can have a cumulative effect on a child if they're watched over and over again.
- Harness the power of television in a positive way. TV can be a valuable tool for learning and expanding one's awareness of the world.
- Make use of ratings systems to know whether or not a program or movie is appropriate for your child.

Preventing alcohol abuse

- Give your child a sense of confidence. This is the best defense against peer pressure.
- Listen to what your child says. Pay attention and be helpful during periods of loneliness or doubt.
- Know who your child's friends are and make a point to get to know them.
- Provide parental supervision. Don't allow your teen to attend parties where alcohol is being served. Insist that a parent be present at parties to supervise.
- Offer a "free call home". Drinking and driving may lead to death. Let him know that he can call home without fear of consequences that night. Discuss the incident the next day.
- Help your child learn to handle strong emotions and feelings.
- Talk about things that are important issues for your child, including alcohol, drugs and the need for peer-group acceptance.
- Join your child in learning all you can about preventing alcohol abuse.
- If talking with your teenager about alcohol is difficult, your pediatrician may be able to help open the lines of communication. *(American Academy of Pediatrics-www.aap.org).*

IF ANYTHING CAN GO WRONG IT WILL GO WRONG!
- MURPHY'S LAW

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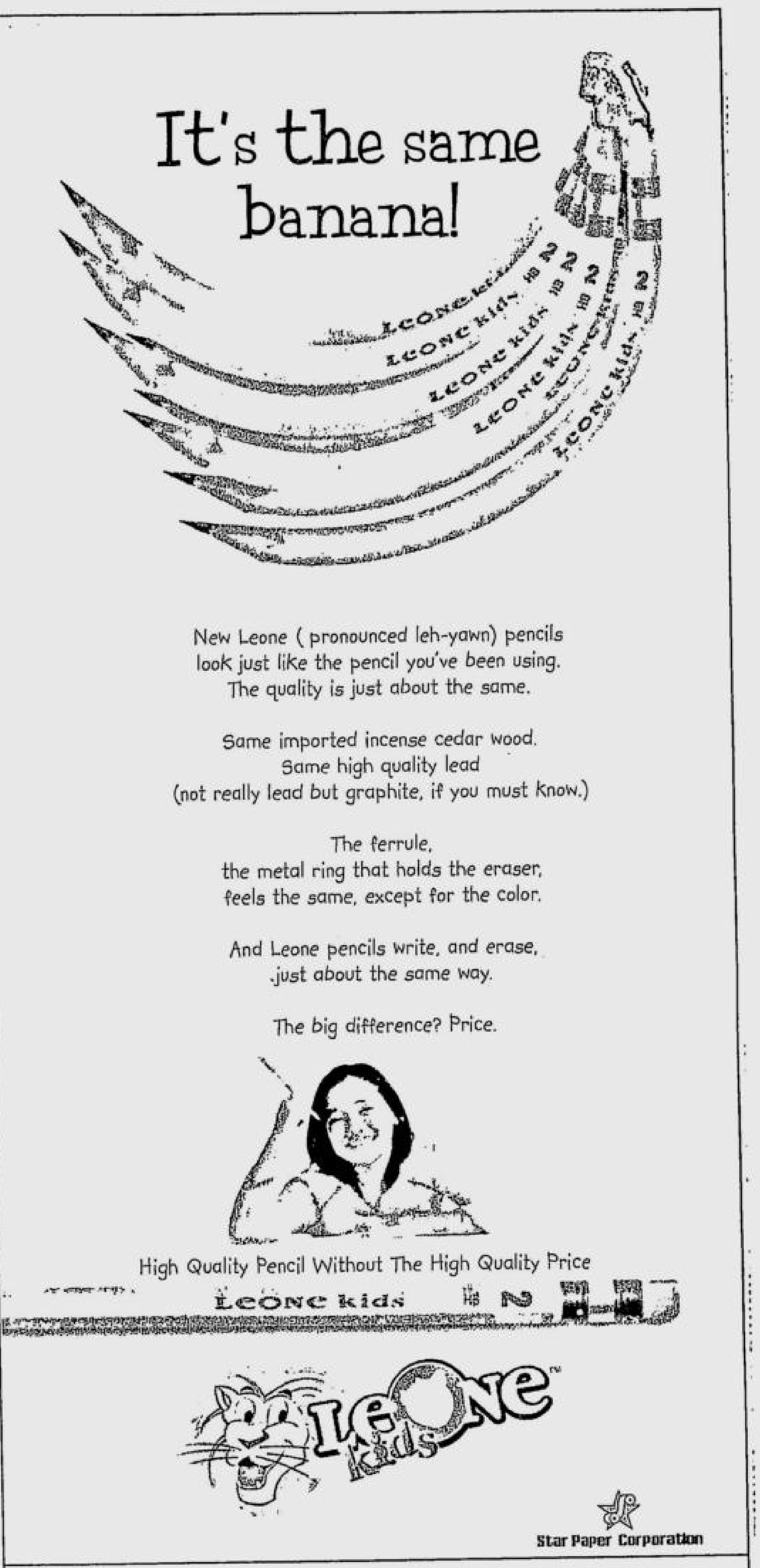

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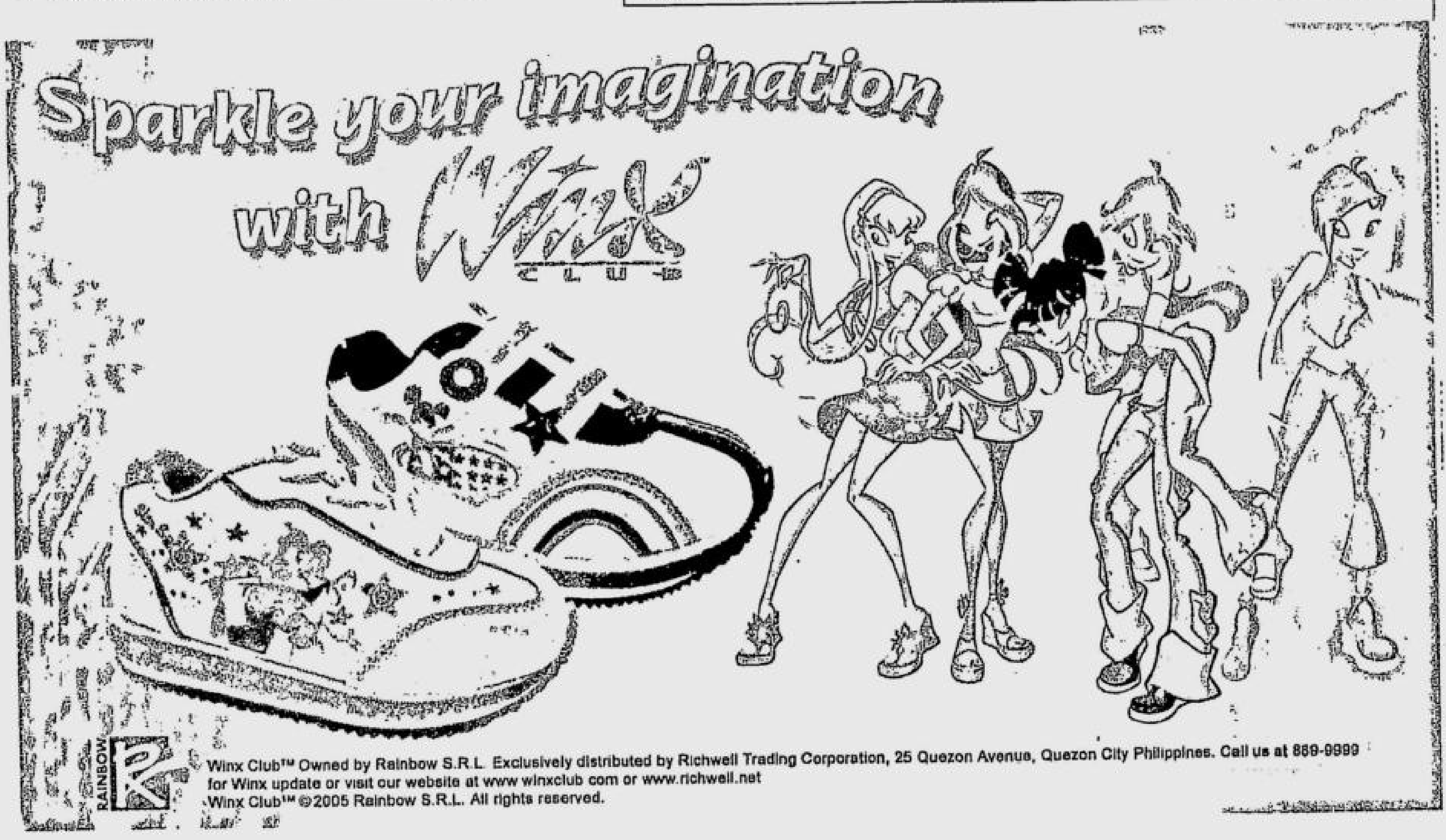

Sparkle your imagination with Winx Club

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Liquid Paper invented by a secretary

DID YOU know that the popular correction fluid Liquid Paper was invented by a female secretary/typist?

In 1951, Bette Nesmith Graham, a divorcee from Dallas, Texas, found work as a secretary/typist to support herself and her son Michael (later of The Monkees fame). She wasn't a very good typist, but she was a very creative person.

She remembered that artists painted over their mistakes on canvas, so why couldn't typists paint over their mistakes? She developed a white tempura paint to hide her mistakes, and she used this to correct her typing mistakes. Her boss never noticed. Soon another secretary saw the new invention and asked for some of the correcting fluid. Graham found a green bottle at home, wrote "Mistake Out" on a label, and gave it to her friend. Soon all the other secretaries and office workers in her building began to buy.

Using her kitchen and garage as laboratory and factory, and with the help of his son Michael and his friends, she mixed up an improved product with her electric mixer and filled bottles for her customers.

While continuing to work as a secretary, she educated herself in business methods, promotion, and research until she was satisfied that the product she had developed was really worth marketing. One day she offered Mistake Out to IBM, but was turned down.

Bette Graham changed the name from Mistake Out to Liquid Paper and kept selling it from her kitchen-garage for the next 17 years.

One day Graham made a mistake at work that she couldn't correct, and she was fired. She devoted her time to selling Liquid Paper, and business boomed.

By 1967, it had grown into a million-dollar business. In 1968, she moved into her own plant and corporate headquarters, automated operations, and had 19 employees. That year she sold 1 million bottles.

In 1975, Liquid Paper moved into a 35,000-square-foot international headquarters building in Dallas. The plant had equipment that could produce 500 bottles a minute. In 1976, the Liquid Paper Corp turned out 25 million bottles. Its net earnings were $1.5 million. The company spent $1 million a year on advertising, alone.

Bette Nesmith Graham believed money to be a tool, not a solution to a problem. She set up two foundations to help women find new ways to earn a living. Graham died in 1980, six months after selling her corporation for $47.5 million plus royalties to the Gillette Corp.

The next time you reach for Liquid Paper to cover a typing mistake, think of the secretary who started it all and imagine what the world would be like without her invention.

Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Star Paper Corp, Liquid Paper continues to be the most popular correction fluid brand used by millions of people worldwide.

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LIQUID PAPER
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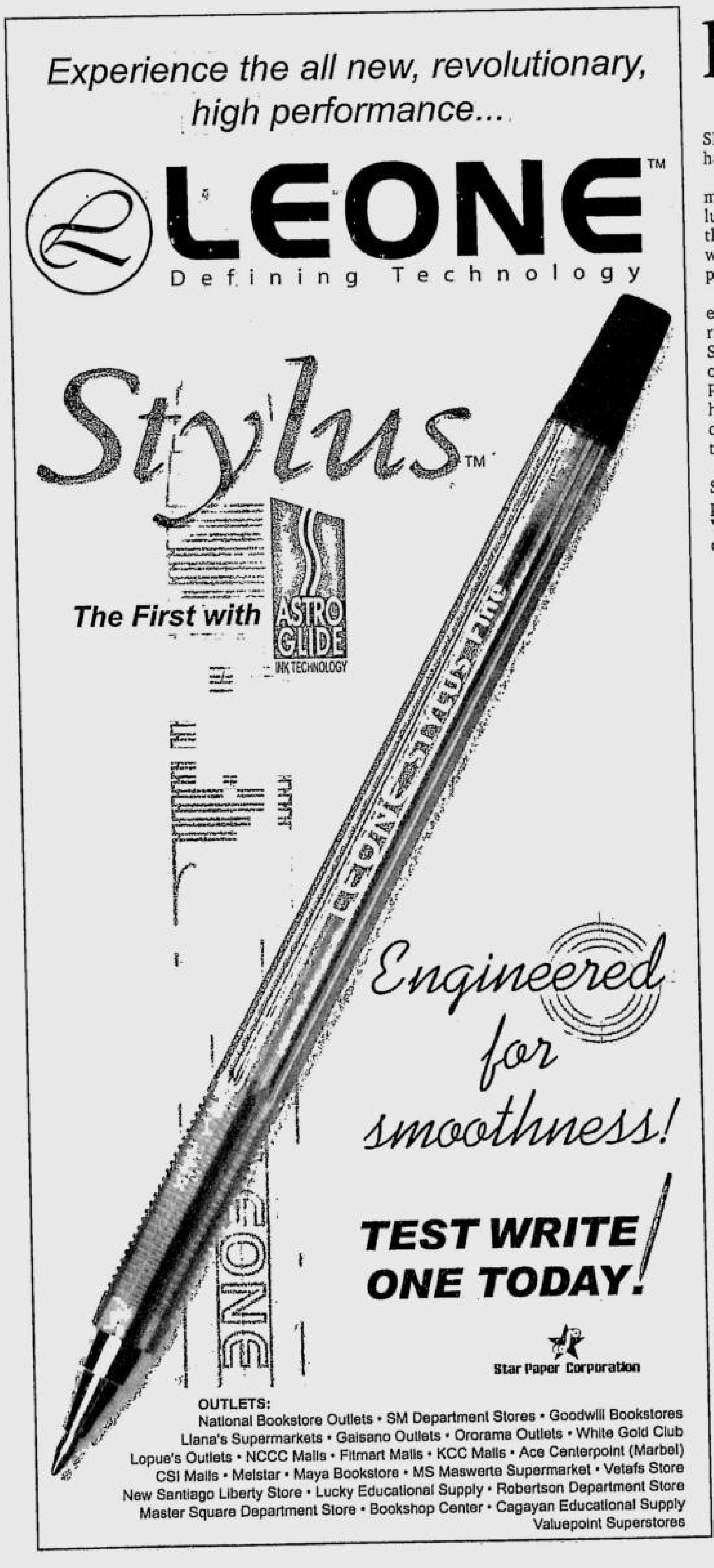
Hot Wheels launches fashion, school gear

HOT WHEELS launches its new line of fashion and school gears, including uniquely designed Hot Wheels apparels, bags, shoes and stationeries. The Hot Wheels apparels are made of premium cotton and are trendy and offbeat.

The love of speed and car racing are the inspirations behind its dynamic design. It comes in different colors and styles that are easy to mix and match. The Hot Wheels shoes and sandals also come in different colors and designs. It is made from the finest materials that are lightweight with insole support for a more comfortable fit.

The other Hot Wheels novelty items like bags, drawing books, notebooks, pencil cases contain fire and race car graphics creating a blend of style and attitude.

The Hot Wheels fashion and school gears combine functionality and style, which make boys a standout all the time. The Hot Wheels fashion and school gears are exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. It is available at SM malls and at all leading department stores nationwide. For more information, log on to www.richwell.net or call 732-5141.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Back-to-school fun at SM

SHOPPING for back-to-school gear has never been so much fun at SM!

Not only will one be getting the most exciting school stuff-bags, lunch boxes, uniforms, stationery-at the most reasonable prices, he or she will also have a chance to join fun promotions.

At the SM Department Store, every P500 purchase entitles one to a raffle coupon and join the "Win School Pabaon Money at SM". Be one of 200 weekly winners to join P20,000 worth of school pabaon for his or her nominated student beneficiary. There will be weekly draws until June 30.

Here's more good news from SM Supermarket. Aside from winning prizes everyday in its ongoing "SM Yellow Tag Special", one can get a chance to win P10,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks in its "Yellow Tag School Time Bonus."

Selected items in the supermarket are highlighted with yellow shelf tags. The customer simply has to purchase a minimum P500 worth of groceries with the yellow tag in order to play the pachinko game. This will entitle one to a chance to take home instant prizes, and raffle coupon to be one of 120 winners of P10,000. Over a million pesos in prizes are at stake.

Shopping with your SM Advantage Card will allow you to double your chances of winning in the raffle. Also, double your points when you buy a minimum of P500 worth of groceries with the yellow tag.

This promotion will be from June 1 to July 15 at all SM Supermarket, Super Sale Club, and Save More branches nationwide.

SM DEPARTMENT Store's 'Win School Pabaon Money at SM' promo is ongoing until June 30.

Informatics launches call center training program

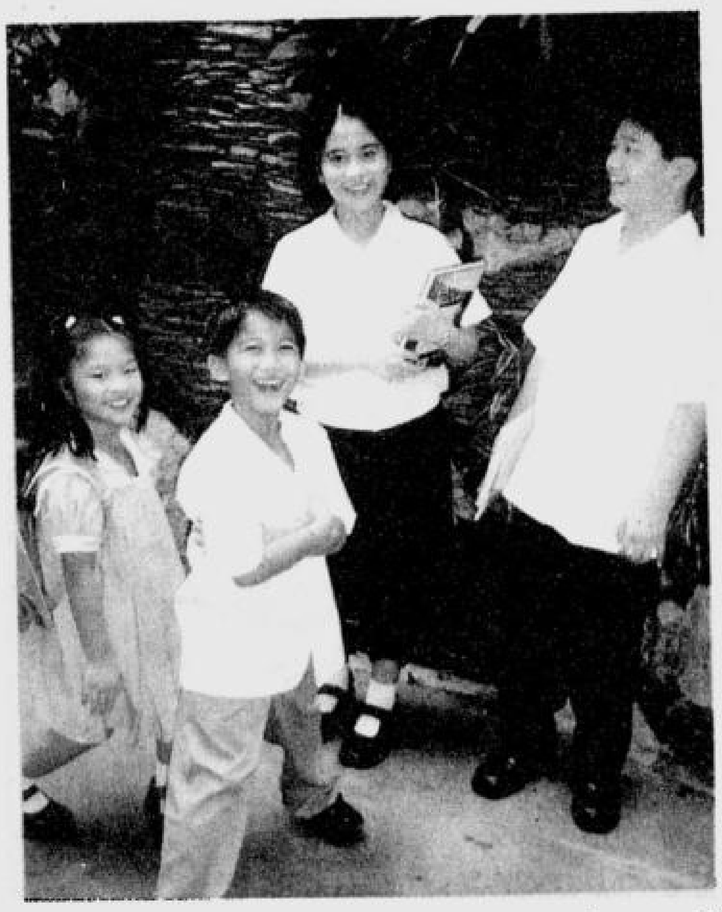
THE CALL center service is the country's fast growing industry. The Philippines now has around 60,000 outsourcing jobs, compared to 245,000 in India, according to Datamonitor.

Informatics, the No. 1 computer school in Singapore and the global leader in IT training and education made another breakthrough through the nationwide launch of the Call Center Training Program (CCTP). The CCTP is a comprehensive course designed to equip participants with the skills needed to prepare for a job in a call center. The program covers topics such as communication skills, American accent, British accent and culture, customer service and computer proficiency.

"It's a gold mine," said Ramon Dimacali, head of industry group Outsource Philippines.

Informatics partnered with top call center companies in the Philippines: Alorica Philippines, Artlets Business Solutions, Advanced Contact Solutions, ePacific Global Contact Center, Lender Services Direct, Philippine OC3NET Technologies, Sykes and TeleTech. With this partnership, Informatics envisions to complement the training with standards set by call center companies in the Philippines and the expertise they need in IT.

To know more about Informatics Call Center Training Program, you may send an SMS to 0917-823-2222, email at inquiry@informatics.com.ph or visit any Informatics branch near you.

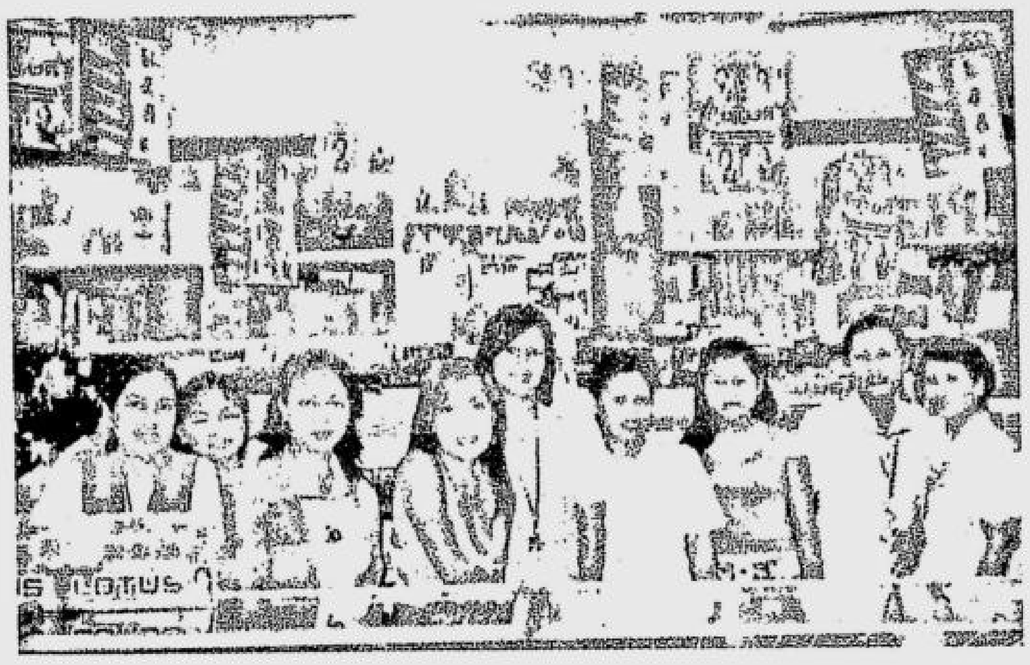


Gearing up for school with Henson

GEAR up this school year with Henson School Wear-high-quality elementary and high school uniforms in a wide range of sizes and styles at a friendly price and a name you can always depend on. A proud Filipino tradition since 1938.

Henson School Wear is available at all SM Department Stores. Visit the Henson Clothing Company showroom at 1476 Vicente G. Cruz Street, Sampaloc, Manila, or log on to www.hensonclothingco.com. For orders and inquiries, call 711-0794 or 731-2612.

Lotus endorser Pia Guanio in mall tour

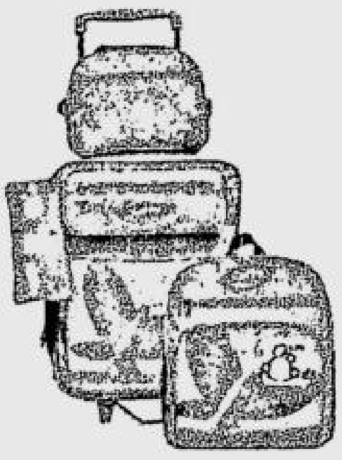


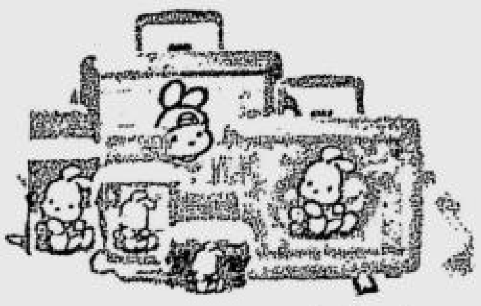
LOTUS Ultimate Writing Instruments celebrity endorser Pia Guanio recently started her mall tour for 2005. Coinciding with the back-to-school season, the smart and sexy endorser visited SM North Edsa, particularly SM Supplies Station, National Bookstore and Expressions.

Delighted fans and shoppers received freebies from Lotus and autographed posters of Pia.

Photos show Pia with (clockwise, from top left photo): SM Supplies Station department manager Justine San Pedro (left) and SM senior manager Reyma Bajio; Expressions North Edsa manager Liza Maglanque and her staff; National Bookstore and Amspec staff and a young fan receiving a Lotus poster and pen; National Bookstore North Edsa assistant manager Berna Lazaro and staff; two young fans and National Bookstore staff. Lotus and Pia are scheduled to visit more outlets in SM Makati, Megamall and Cubao, Robinsons Galleria, and Metro Gaisano every Saturdays until June 11.

Back to school at Characters Unlimited





SUMMER season has finally ended. Kids may think fun is over. But with Robby Rabbit, the fun continues as back-to-school season approaches.

Kids will definitely be excited and be ready to ride the school bus this school year with cool Robby Rabbit stuff. Robby Rabbit showcases its newest collections at leading department stores nationwide and at Characters Unlimited branches, your one-stop cartoon character shop.

With the hurly-burly of the back-to-school season, some go for style, some for quality. By and large, one gets sacrificed, but with Robby Rabbit you can have the best of both worlds minus the high price.

Last year, the Consumers Union of the Philippines awarded Robby Rabbit as the outstanding cartoon character brand. Now, true to its commitment to quality and style, Robby Rabbit releases the following collections for the school opening: Robby Flower Power, Butterfly Glitz, Roller Skates, Robby Air Force One, Flower Puff, Double R collections, and more.

Robby Rabbit product lines include school items ranging from backpacks, trolleys, lunchbox, tumbler, notebooks, socks, to other fun school items such as children's accessories and children's wear.

These cool back-to-school collections are available at leading department stores nationwide, or visit one of the Characters Unlimited branches: Tutuban Center Mall 1, Manila; Festival Supermall, Alabang, Riverbanks Center, Marikina; Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila (wholesale); Sta. Elena, Manila; Robinsons Place, Manila; Pavilion Mall, Binan, Laguna; Magic Star Mall, Tarlac City.

STARTING THE ARTISTS YOUNG

The best works of participants aged 3 to 12 years old done during the 2005 Summer Positivism Art Workshop will be exhibited and sold to raise funds for the benefit of street children who have been attending free art lessons conducted by positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle. The venue of the exhibit/sale is at the 5th level of Walter Mart Makati (corner Chino Roces Avenue and Arnaiz Street) on Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m. Several awards in drawing and watercolor painting will be given to outstanding students during the graduation exhibit/sale. Shown is licensed pharmacist turned art teacher and gallery owner Ivydell Quizon giving pointers in watercolor to students (from left) Jem Mateo, Pao Tupaz, Tzen Chico, Kurt Liwanag, Kodi Rivera, Lae Rivera, Joy Cabral, Ian Sayson, Rayne Mallari, Nani Raneses, Abhi Narayanan, Jed Huet, Ivy Tupaz, and Tricia Cruz. Interested parties can call 811-2432 or 0927-5522288.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

FDA-approved drug for kidney transplants hits RP market

NOVARTIS Healthcare Philippines Inc announced that its newest product especially designed to prevent organ rejection for kidney transplant patients hit the Philippine market last April, launched at the recently-concluded Philippine Society of Nephrology dinner-symposium held at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel April 15.

Mycophenolate sodium is an advanced enteric-coated formulation that delivers the active moiety mycophenolic acid (MPA)—the same active moiety that is delivered by mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) taken by more than 80 percent of new kidney transplant recipients in the United States as part of their immunosuppressive regiments.

Novartis officials said that mycophenolate sodium in combination with ciclosporin gives patients and physicians a treatment option that offers the full benefits of mycophenolic acid therapy in an enteric-coated formulation. The said mycophenolate acid delayed-release tablets are to be used along with ciclosporin and corticosteroids to prevent acute rejection of kidney allografts in adult patients.

The enteric-coated mycophenolate sodium is the newest option to kidney transplant recipients.

Results of two global multicenter trials involving more than 700 patients indicate that mycophenolate sodium and MMF are therapeutically equivalent in de novo renal transplant patients and that the conversion to mycophenolate sodium from MMF is safe in maintenance renal transplant patients.

Studies have reported that up to 70 percent of patients taking MMF required at least one dose change due to drug-related adverse effects, as patients who underwent an initial reduction in MMF dose were eight times more likely to suffer acute organ rejection than those who had not had a dose adjustment. Mycophenolate sodium's enteric coating, meantime, delays the release of mycophenolic acid in the gastrointestinal tract until exposure to a neutral pH, typically in the small intestine. Because of this delay in dissolution and consequently absorption, the labeling warns against interchanging the mycophenolic and mycophenolate products "without physician supervision."

MRP-completed

Mycophenolate sodium successfully completed the European Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP) and was approved for the prevention of acute rejection in kidney allografts (transplants) in adult patients in February 2004 by the US Food and Drug Administration, receiving its first regulatory approval from Switzerland in October 2002.

The recommended dosage of mycophenolate sodium in adults is 720 mg twice daily taken one hour before food intake or two hours afterwards-which is also the maximum dosage recommended.

Surface area

Pediatric patients with a body surface area of 1.19 to 1.58 sqm are to receive 540 mg of mycophenolic acid twice daily; larger patients are to receive 720 mg twice daily. Because the product is available in only two strengths-180 mg and 360 mg-and the tablets must not be cut or crushed, there is no recommended dosage for pediatric patients with a body surface area less than 1.19 sqm.

The new drug, however, should not be used in pregnant women unless the potential benefit justifies the potential risk of the fetus; and if pregnancy does occur during treatment, the physician and patient should discuss the potential risk to the fetus.

Mycophenolate sodium has been administered in combination with the following agents in clinical trials: antithymocyte/lymphocyte immunoglobulin, muromonab-CD3, basiliximab, daclizumab, ciclosporin, and corticosteroids, with said delayed-release tablets indicated for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in patients receiving allogeneic renal transplants, administered in combination with ciclosporin and corticosteroids.

'Let the Love Begin' in your own home

GMA RECORDS Home Video brings back the ultimate romantic blockbuster movie of the year. "Let The Love Begin" stars today's hottest love teams-Angel Locsin and Richard Gutierrez and Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras. This is a story of destined lovers who face the struggles of being in love.

Pia (Angel Locsin) is beautiful and wealthy. She is the campus sweetheart and the girl of every guy's dream. Eric (Richard Gutierrez) is handsome and intelligent, but poor. He is forced to work as a janitor in Pia's high school where he admires her from afar. Although belonging to the extremes of social strata, their worlds cross when they share the same seat in class, Pia during the day and Eric at night as part of a scholarship program. Is this a sign that they are destined for each other? Can a humble janitor even dream of being loved by a wealthy, lovely lady?

Find out the answers and let the love adventure begin in your own home. Own it on original VCDs and DVDs nationwide only from GMA Records Home Video.

ANGEL Locsin and Richard Gutierrez

MARK Herras and Jennylyn Mercado

BITS Clips

GTF 28th season audition

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), announces the audition for the productions of its 28th season, slated on June 3 (7 p.m.) at the Rehearsal Hall of the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. The 28th season opens with "Florante at Laura", then with "Kanser (Noli Me Tangere)", "Ibong Adarna", "El Filibusterismo, and concludes with F. Sionil Jose's "The God Stealer/Nick Joaquin's "The Legend of the Virgin's Stone". Lead, supporting and ensemble parts are up for grabs. The audition is open to male and female actors, ages 18 to 40 years old, and must be fluent in Filipino. For inquiries and other details, call 528-0603 or 536-5860 and look for Alwin M. Ignacio.

Lakers' Walton in Manila

LUKE Walton, son of NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton, is in Manila until June 5 for the "NBA Madness 2005" at the south parking lot of Araneta Coliseum. He's joined by Dwight Howard of Orlando Magic and the Houston Rockets Power Dancers for the event. Walton entered the NBA via the 2003 NBA rookie draft. The University of Arizona standout was the 32nd pick in the second round and third overall by then coach Phil Jackson of Los Angeles. Walton, a crowd favorite at Staples Center, is a product endorser of LA Gear men's line. The 25-year-old Laker is featured with his NBA legend father in a "Today and Tomorrow" advertising theme with "Timeless" as headline for the Catapult shoe.

Arte Pintura's 'Variations'

THE ARTE Pintura visual artist group is holding its exhibit titled "Variations", ongoing at the Renaissance Gallery, 4th level, SM Megamall until June 12. The group is headed by Addie Cukingnan with Azor Pazcoguin, Rey Ademis, Jessie Martin, Tony Yusi, Abelardo Pasigado, Betty Luz Chua, Shirley Tan, Rey Aurelio and Debbie Ann Tan. "Variations" will be for the benefit of Messiah College Foundation Inc. "Variations" showcases the varied styles and subjects of the artists, bringing diversity to styles and colors. Arte Pintura started in 1997, and was given the Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award for excellence in the field of culture and art. Interested students, beginners or advanced, can inquire about Arte Pintura's oil painting workshops at 726-6542 and look for Emy. Arte Pintura's website is http://arte_pintura.tripod.com.

Samsung unveils biggest range of enhanced Silver Nano Health System home appliances

SAMSUNG Electronics, one of the world's leading manufacturers of home appliances, unveiled recently its biggest range of enhanced Silver Nano Health System home appliances to reinforce its technology leadership in the digital appliances industry.

Fourteen models in three product categories-washing machines, air conditioners and refrigerators-including the world's thinnest air conditioner, is the widest ever offered to consumers that features Nano technology that effectively removes bacteria, viruses and fungi, penetrate and kill their cells, suppresses their ability to breed, and therefore effectively inhibit the cell from growing.

Samsung is currently the only premium brand in the home appliance sector offering innovation across all its home appliance categories to meet the growing trend among consumers who want a cleaner and healthier home environment.

Hyuck Jae Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Philippines, said, "Samsung is recognized for its relentless pursuit of technological and product innovations that are often regarded as the standard of excellence for the industry. Our enhanced Silver Nano Health System will speed up our goal to become the top premium brand in the digital appliances business."

Among Samsung's latest Silver Nano Health System home appliances are:

Washing machines

Samsung washing machines feature Silver Wash, a technology that can kill 99.9 percent of bacteria in wash load and coats the clothing with anti-bacterial protection, which lasts for up to 30 days. They carry out sterilizing and anti-bacterial actions even at low temperatures, producing the same sanitizing effect as boiling laundry, and yet minimize damage to clothing and conserve energy.

Three models will be offered in the market, including new front load drum washing H-1245 and C-1235 and the WA-10RAN.

Air conditioners

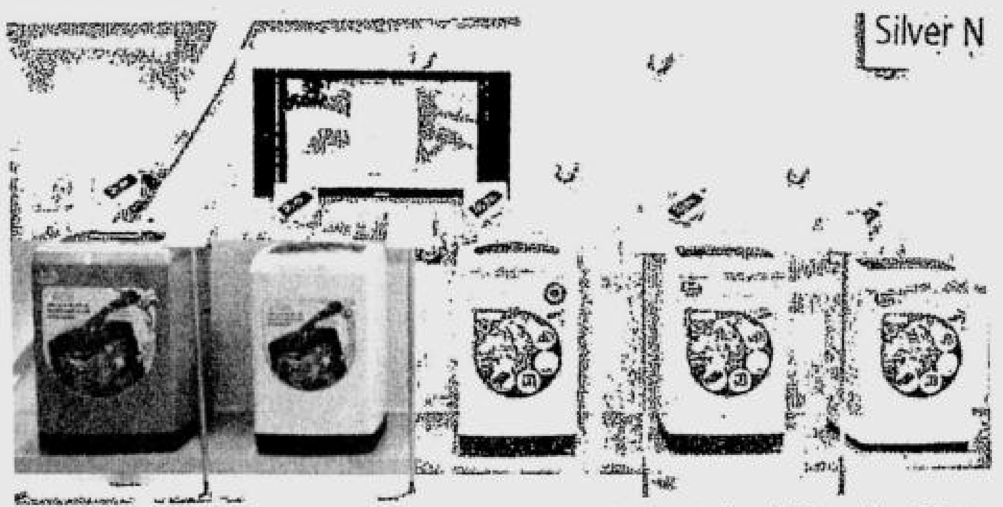
Samsung air conditioner systems feature the technology through Silver Nano coated evaporators and filters that prevent bacteria being recycled in the environment and stop the growth of fungi. Since Silver Nano technology is applied to the heat exchanger and filter, and a greater surface is treated with a Silver Nano technology, the air becomes cleaner, fresher, and healthier.

The models launched include the world's slimmest air conditioner, the Samsung AS09CM2 and the AS12CM2. The new models also come with the Silver Nano Metallic Filter, incorporating Silver Nano anti-bacterial technology and improving electronic dust collection. It has the lowest noise performance at only 28 decibels and is also equipped with a digital display and digital melodies. Other models included in the new line up are: split type-AS-09W8WB, AS18WJWB, AS12W4WB, AS24WGWB, window type-AW09F2TBC, AW09PH1BA, AW09HHBA.

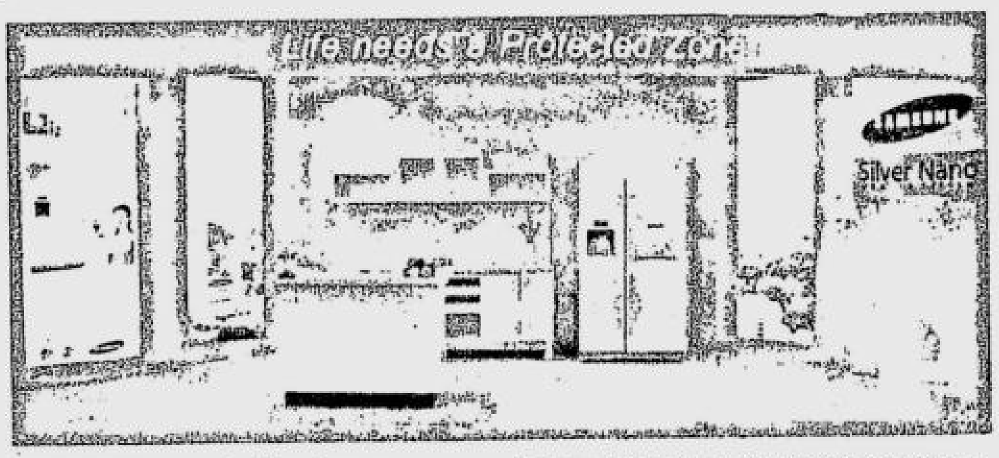
Refrigerators

Samsung's range of refrigerators are equipped with features like the Twin Cooling System, offering a coating of silver on the internal surfaces to prevent germs from growing. Silver particles coated on the inner walls of a refrigerator stop bacteria from multiplying and keep the inside of the refrigerator clean and hygienic. Nano-sized silver particles in the Silver Nano deodorizer and inner lining prevent the diffusion of bacteria, thus ensuring that fruits and vegetables maintain their freshness. By keeping the cooling environment germ-free, food stays fresher longer for up to 15 days.

All door and side-by-side refrigerator models feature the Silver Nano health syatem. The models offered in the market include the Samsung RS-20NCSL, RS-21DLMR, RS-21NCMS, RS-23JGRS, and the new model to be introduced, the RS-27KGRS.

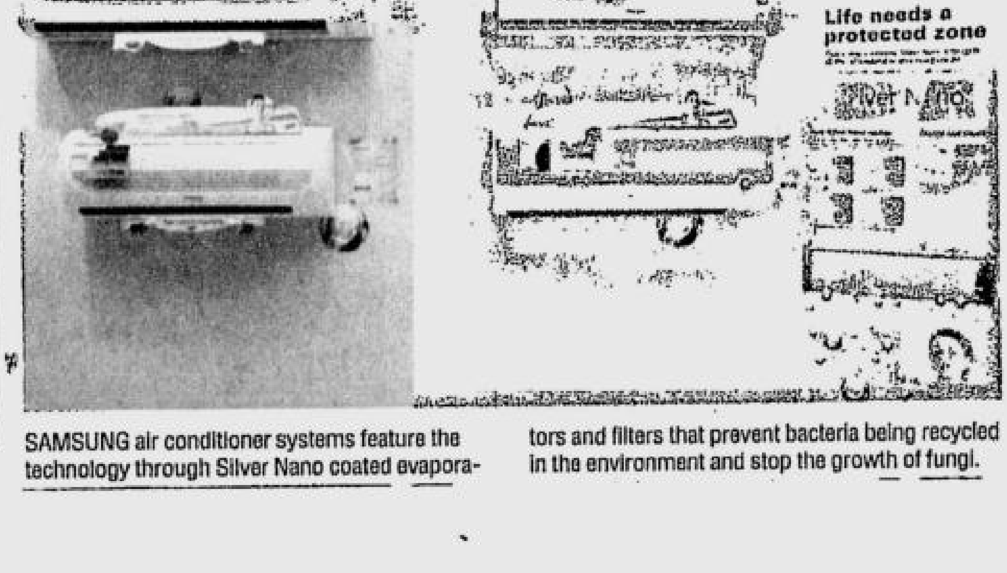


SAMSUNG washing machines feature Silver Wash, which can kill 99.9 percent of bacteria in wash load and coats the clothing with anti-bacterial protection, which lasts for up to 30 days.



SAMSUNG'S range of refrigerators are equipped with features like the Twin Cooling System, offering a coating of silver on the internal surfaces to prevent germs from growing.

Protected Zone
SILVER NANO
SAMSUNG
14 MODELS in three product categories—the widest ever offered to consumers that features Nano technology



SAMSUNG air conditioner systems feature the technology through Silver Nano coated evaporators and filters that prevent bacteria being recycled in the environment and stop the growth of fungi.